



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 21, 1994

Docket No. 50-263

Mr. James Howard
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Howard:

On June 7-8, 1994, NRC senior managers met to evaluate the nuclear safety performance of operating reactors, fuel facilities, and other materials licensees. The NRC conducts this meeting semiannually to determine if the safety performance of the various licensees exhibits sufficient weaknesses to warrant increased NRC attention or if it is trending adversely and requires that steps be taken to communicate concerns to the utility's president or board of directors. In addition, at this meeting, senior managers identify specific plants that have demonstrated a level of safety performance that deserves formal NRC recognition. At the January 1994 Senior Management Meeting, the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant was identified as having achieved a high level of safety performance and, as a result, met criteria for recognition of its performance. I am pleased to note that Monticello has again been identified as a good performer.

In identifying such plants, NRC senior managers perform an evaluation of performance in many areas including operational safety, self-assessment, problem resolution, and plant management organization and oversight.

The NRC recognizes that, to achieve the level of performance demonstrated by the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, there must be management involvement in all phases of plant activities. In addition, the staff must be dedicated, knowledgeable, and fully supportive of plant activities, and a commitment to safety must exist throughout the organization. We commend you and your staff for achieving this high level of safety performance. Your achievement is a positive example to the industry.

The greatest challenge that you now face is to maintain this level of performance and not to rest on past achievements. Continued management involvement and support, and dedicated efforts from your staff to identify and

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Mr. James Howard

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promptly correct problems are necessary for you to continue to meet this difficult challenge.

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

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Mr. James Howard

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Mr. James Howard

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Original signed by
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

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