



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 15, 1994

50-243

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Licensing and Management Issues
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: CORE SHROUD INSPECTIONS AT THE MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On July 25, 1994, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 94-03, "Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking of Core Shrouds in Boiling Water Reactors," which, in part, requested licensees to inspect the core shrouds in their BWR plants during the next scheduled refueling outage. The GL further stated that each licensee should develop an inspection plan which addresses all shroud welds and provide that plan to the NRC. We've reviewed your response to GL 94-03, dated August 23, 1994, and discussed your plans via teleconference on September 14 and 15, 1994 for inspecting the shroud. In your response to GL 94-03 you stated that the welds will be inspected to the maximum extent practical within the available outage window.

During the teleconference you stated that your inspection plans are not yet finalized and you have not yet identified how much of the accessible portions of the welds you intend to inspect. You also stated that you intend to perform more inspections than the minimum required by the BWR Vessel Internals Project (VIP), but something less than 100% of accessible welds. The BWR VIP has proposed an inspection philosophy which identifies the minimum amount of intact shroud material to assure adequate structural margin. The staff has previously found this approach to be unacceptable.

Our position on the scope of inspections that should be conducted is stated in the GL and in a letter dated September 13, 1994, from Mr. Sheron of the NRC to Mr. Beckham representing the BWR VIP. The letter to the VIP stated, "all accessible portions of the shroud circumferential welds should be examined to ascertain the extent of cracking, thereby providing a good baseline for future evaluation."

As we expressed in the above teleconferences, your response to the GL does not adequately address all accessible shroud welds in general, and in particular, does not include inspecting 100% of these accessible welds. Since your plans seem to conflict with our stated positions, we request that you promptly submit your detailed inspection plans, including your bases for not conducting a 100% inspection and the associated impact on your current outage plans.

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R. Anderson

- 2 -

September 15, 1994

We request this response within five days of the receipt of this letter. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Beth Wetzel at (301) 504-1355.

Sincerely,



Ledyard B. Marsh, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

cc: See next page

We request this response within five days of the receipt of this letter. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Beth Wetzel at (301) 504-1355.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ledyard B. Marsh, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

cc: See next page

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Northern States Power Company

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

cc:

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