



Northern States Power Company

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January 5, 1996

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

Plans for 1996 Refueling Outage
Concerning Core Shroud Inspections at Monticello

The purpose of this informational letter is to provide the NRC details concerning Monticello's upcoming 1996 refueling outage core shroud inspection. Results of our 1994 refueling outage inspection were transmitted to the NRC on October 25, 1994 in a letter titled "Supplemental Response to NRC Generic Letter 94-02, "Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking of Core Shrouds in Boiling Water Reactors".

Monticello has been active in the BWR Vessel Inspection Program (BWRVIP). A BWRVIP document is currently being prepared that is to provide guidance for shroud re-inspections. However, timing for formal review and approval of this document is uncertain. Final contract negotiations have been completed for the 1996 Monticello shroud inspection without the benefit of this document.

Our 1996 inspection plan calls for UT inspection of the accessible portions of welds H6 and H7. Portions of welds H2 and H3 where indications were found during the 1994 refueling inspection will also be re-examined to confirm crack growth assumptions. As time permits, further inspections will be conducted on previously uninspected areas of H1, H4, and H5 that might now be accessible with new inspection tooling. We will provide the NRC with the results of these examinations.

It is our intent to use the results of these inspections to update a plant specific core shroud integrity safety evaluation that will justify another cycle of operation.

We have selected Westinghouse BWR Services as the vendor for our shroud inspection. Per discussions between Monticello and the NRC staff on November 28, 1995, members of the staff are invited to an RPV shroud tooling demonstration tentatively scheduled for the week of March 11, 1996 at the Westinghouse Waltz Mill facility in Madison PA. At this time, Westinghouse expects to be running an inspection demonstration and qualification on a BWR

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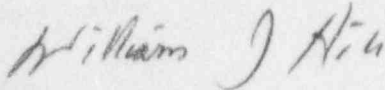
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mockup. NSP expects to be in attendance. If the schedule changes, we will update the NRC through Monticello's Project Manager.

Please contact Sam Shirey, Sr Licensing Engineer, at (612) 295-1449 if you require further information.



William J Hill
Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

c: Regional Administrator - III, NRC
NRR Project Manager, NRC
Sr Resident Inspector, NRC
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