

In the Matter of )  
Northern States Power Company ) Docket No. 50-263  
(Monticello Nuclear Generation Plant) )

## EXEMPTION

### I

Northern States Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-22 (the license) which authorizes operation of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, (the facility) at steady state reactor power levels not in excess of 1670 megawatts thermal (rated power). The facility consists of a boiling water reactor (BWR) located at the licensee's site in Wright County, Minnesota.

The license is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission.

### II

10 CFR 50.54(q) requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards of §50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.1 of Appendix E requires each licensee to conduct a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise at least annually.

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By letter dated November 7, 1983, the licensee requested an exemption from the schedular requirements of Section IV.F.1 of Appendix E. The last full-scale emergency preparedness exercise was conducted at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant on February 23, 1983. Although the next full-scale annual exercise would have been conducted in February of 1984, the licensee requested an exemption on a one-time basis to allow the next full-scale exercise to be conducted on December 5, 1984.

The licensee states that an extended outage is scheduled from February 3, 1984 until September 15, 1984, for the replacement of the recirculating piping, with additional time required for outage preparation and recovery. The licensee contends that the scope of the outage, personnel requirements, and its effect on the site precludes holding an emergency preparedness exercise concurrently. They further state that during this period the reactor will be shut down and defueled.

The licensee states that, in conjunction with State and local governments, they have participated in three previous successful exercises, including the one held on February 23, 1983. The licensee also participated in a small-scale exercise at their Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant on March 13, 1984. The licensee further states that the State of Minnesota and the Counties of Wright and Sherburne have agreed to participate in the December 5, 1984 exercise. The licensee contends that during the period between exercises the emergency plan will remain fully operational and the

normally required training will continue throughout the period of exemption. It is the NRC staff's judgment that the most effective and beneficial annual exercises are those involving the full-scale participation of State and local government organizations.

In reviewing the licensee's request for a one-time delay of the next full-scale emergency preparedness exercise at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant the staff has concluded that granting the exemption will not significantly affect the state of emergency preparedness at Monticello. The staff concludes that the licensee's request is reasonable and should be granted.

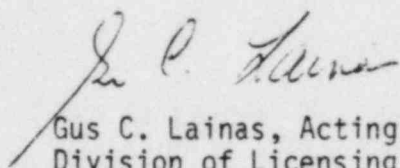
### III

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption requested by the licensee's letter of November 7, 1983, is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. The Commission hereby grants to the licensee an exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.1.a, to allow the licensee's next emergency preparedness exercise to be conducted no later than December 31, 1984.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (49 FR 34989).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Gus C. Lainas, Acting Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland  
this 4th day of September, 1984.