

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-263NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from requirements of 10 CFR 50.54 to Northern States Power Company, the licensee for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, located in Wright County, Minnesota.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would grant an exemption to permit the shift supervisor's office to be considered part of the control room for purposes of meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54. The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's request for exemption dated September 29, 1983, as supplemented March 23, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: On July 11, 1983, the Commission published a revised Section 10 CFR 50.54 regarding shift staffing requirements for nuclear power plants. Section 50.54(m)(2)(iii) of the revised rule requires that: "When a nuclear power unit is in an operational mode other than cold shutdown or refueling, as defined by the unit's technical specifications, each licensee shall have a person holding a senior operator license for the nuclear power unit in the control room at all times."

In a letter dated September 29, 1983, and supplemented by letter dated March 23, 1984, Northern States Power Company described its plans for

modifying the shift supervisor's office at the Monticello plant to make it suitable to be considered as part of the control room. Northern States Power Company requested that the Shift Supervisor's office be considered as part of the control room for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the new shift staffing rule. The proposed modifications to the office are to be accomplished during the present extended outage. The Shift Supervisor's office is a different room than the control room, and therefore operating personnel in the Shift Supervisor's office can not directly perceive the same information as is available in the control room or communicate directly with control room personnel. For this reason, we are treating this matter as an exemption request from the licensee.

Northern States Power Company stated that nine out of eleven persons holding senior operator licenses at the Monticello plant are supervisory personnel whose duties involve routine processing of work control, testing, and other documentation. Locating these persons in the control room introduces undesirable traffic into the small Monticello control room. The licensee's plans for modifying the shift supervisor's office include provision of key visual and audible information and reliable prompt access to the control room, so that use of the shift supervisor's office for senior reactor operator occupancy is considered functionally acceptable by the licensee.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the staffing requirements as related to the definition of the

control room and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously, and the proposed relief does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents, or any significant occupational exposures. Likewise, the relief does not affect plant non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives either will have no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require literal compliance with Section 50.54(m)(2) to 10 CFR Part 50. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unnecessary staffing requirements and associated cost to the licensee.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in connection with the Final Environmental Statement relating to this facility, Final Environmental Statement Related to the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Docket No. 50-263, (November 1972).

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

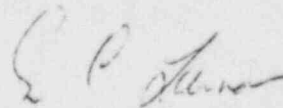
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated September 29, 1983, as supplemented March 23, 1984 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. and at the Environmental Conservation Library, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 7th day of November, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing