

May 2, 1996

Mr. E. Watzl  
Vice President, Nuclear Generation  
Northern States Power Company  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Watzl:

In a telephone conversation on May 1, 1996, between Mr. B. Sawatzke and Mr. E. Plettner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Monticello Nuclear Power Station the week of September 9, 1996.

Your staff will prepare the proposed examinations in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 8 (DRAFT), of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any examination changes that might be necessary prior to their administration.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the proposed examination outlines by July 26, 1996. The proposed written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by August 9, 1996. Any delay in receiving the required reference and examination materials or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials may result in the examinations being rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402 and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

Your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications and waiver requests at least 30 days before the first examination date so that the NRC will be able to review the applications and the medical certifications and evaluate any requested waivers. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

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This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance Number 3150-0101, which expires April 30, 1997. The estimated average burden is 7.7 hours per response, including gathering, copying and mailing the required reference material; the estimated average burden to prepare the examinations is 400 hours. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch, Mail Stop T-6 F33, Office of Information Resources Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0101), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. B. Sawatzke has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact E. Plettner at 708-829-9730, or me at 708-829-9707.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Burdick, Chief  
Operator Licensing Branch

Docket No. 50-263

cc: Plant Manager, Monticello  
John W. Ferman, Ph.D.  
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA  
State Liaison Officer, State  
of Minnesota  
B. J. Sawatzke, Training Department

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