



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 29, 1977

PDR

Docket Nos. 50-263
50-282
and 50-306

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. L. O. Mayer, Manager
Nuclear Support Services
414 Nicollet Mall - 8th Floor
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Gentlemen:

By letter dated November 22, 1977, you submitted the document entitled "Operational Quality Assurance Program, Revision 2" for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant and Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. This document describes the Quality Assurance (QA) program and how it satisfies the applicable regulation and guidelines. It also contains the duties, responsibilities and authority of those individuals and groups involved in carrying out activities required by the QA program. The measures used to carry out the QA program activities are also provided, including a description of how the requirements of Appendix B to Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, will be satisfied by the administration and implementation of these measures.

We have reviewed the document submitted by your November 22, 1977 letter and have determined that the program described therein is acceptable provided that radiographs shall be considered lifetime records (i.e. retained for the life of the item) and under the control of ANSI N45.2.9-1974. Our discussions with members of your staff indicates that this condition is acceptable. Additionally, we have determined that:

1. Your QA organization is provided sufficient independence from cost and schedule (when opposed to safety considerations), sufficient authority to effectively carry out the operations QA program, and sufficient access to management at a level necessary to perform their QA functions.
2. The QA program description contains adequate QA requirements and a comprehensive system of planned and systematic controls which address each of the criteria of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 in an acceptable manner.

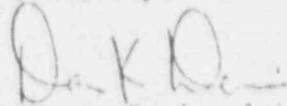
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Accordingly, your "Operational Quality Assurance Program, Rev. 2" is acceptable for the operations phase of Monticello and Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plants, with the condition that radiographs shall be considered lifetime records (i.e. retained for the life of the item).

You should fully implement this QA program within 90 days of the date of this letter. Should you determine that any portion of the program cannot be implemented at that time, you should notify us, in writing, within 60 days of receipt of this letter, specifying which aspects of the program cannot be implemented and stating reasons therefore.

Sincerely,



Don K. Davis, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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