

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

September 25, 1973

Mr. J. F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
Office of Regulation
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, DC 20545



Dear Mr. O'Leary:

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

Sodium Pentaborate Solution in No. 12 SBLC Pump Lubricating Oil

A condition occurred at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant which we are reporting to your office in accordance with Section 6.7.B.1, Abnormal Occurrence Reports, of the Appendix A Technical Specifications, of Provisional Operating License DPR-22.

On September 17, 1973, sodium pentaborate solution was found in the No. 12 Standby Liquid Control pump lubricating oil. An investigation of the problem revealed that the stuffing box drain valve was closed, which caused the normal pump packing leakage to collect in the stuffing box until it leaked into the crankcase through the plunger stub ports. The drain valve was immediately opened. It was determined that the stuffing box drain valve had been closed on or about September 17th for painting of the pump mounting base.

The No. 12 pump crankcase was drained, flushed, and refilled with new oil. The No. 11 SBLC pump was inspected and also found to have the stuffing box drain valve closed; however, the amount of solution which accumulated in the stuffing box was not sufficient to result in leakage into the crankcase. The drain valves will be seal wired in the open position to prevent future inadvertent closure.

This occurrence did not affect safe operation of the plant since the redundant Standby Liquid Control pump was fully operable. Standby Liquid Control pump operability has not been compromised on any previous occasions due to inadvertent closure of the stuffing box drain valves.

Very truly yours,

L. O. Mayer

L O Mayer, PE
Director of Nuclear Support Services

cc: J G Keppler
G Charnoff
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency--Attn. K Dzugan

9211230307 730925
PDR ADOCK 05000263
S PDR

7255