



Northern States Power Company

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
2807 West Hwy 75
Monticello, Minnesota 55362-9637

November 1, 1996

Bulletin 96-03

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

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

One Hundred Eighty Day Response to Bulletin 96-03,
"Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling
Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors"

Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors", was issued May 6, 1996 to request addressees to implement appropriate procedural measures and plant modifications to minimize the potential for clogging of emergency core cooling system (ECCS) suppression pool suction strainers by debris generated during a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). The Bulletin contained the following required response:

All addressees are required to submit the following written reports:

- (1) Within 180 days of the date of this bulletin, a report indicating whether the addressee intends to comply with these requested actions, including a description of planned actions and mitigative strategies to be used, the schedule for implementation, and proposed TS, if appropriate; or, if the licensee does not intend to comply with these actions, a detailed description of the safety basis for the decision. The report must contain a detailed description of any proposed alternative course of action, the schedule for completing this alternative course of action, the safety basis for determining the acceptability of the planned alternative course of action, and proposed TS, if appropriate, that support the proposed alternative course of action and are consistent with 10 CFR 50.36.
- (2) Within 30 days of completion of all requested actions, a report confirming completion and summarizing any actions taken.

Our response to the 180 day report request of Bulletin 96-03 is provided in Attachment 1 of this submittal.

This letter contains the following new NRC commitments:

1. During the scheduled January 1998 refueling outage, large capacity passive strainers will be installed.

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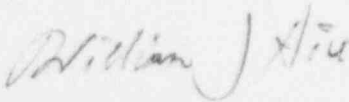
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2. Confirmation of installation of new suction strainers will be reported within 30 days of completion/turnover of suction strainer installation project.
3. An evaluation of the large capacity passive strainer final design and corresponding strainer test results will be performed to determine if any modification or addition is required to the existing Monticello Technical Specification surveillance requirement for visual inspection of the suppression chamber interior.

Please contact Mel Opstad at (612) 295-1653 if you require further information.



William J Hill
Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

c: Regional Administrator - III, NRC
NRR Project Manager, NRC
Sr Resident Inspector, NRC
State of Minnesota, Attn: Kris Sanda

Attachments:

Affidavit to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Attachment 1 One Hundred Eighty Day Response to Bulletin 96-03

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-263

One Hundred Eighty Day Response to Bulletin 96-03,
Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling
Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, by this letter dated November 1, 1996 provides the required one hundred eighty day response to Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors".

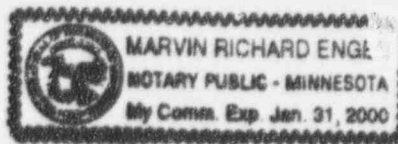
This letter contains no restricted or other defense information.

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

By William J Hill
William J Hill
Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

On this 1st day of November 1996 before me a notary public in and for said County, personally appeared, William J Hill, Plant Manager, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, and being first duly sworn acknowledged that he is authorized to execute this document on behalf of Northern States Power Company, that he knows the contents thereof, and that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief the statements made in it are true and that it is not interposed for delay.

Marvin R Engen
Marvin R Engen
Notary Public - Minnesota
Sherburne County
My Commission Expires January 31, 2000



Attachment 1

One Hundred Eighty Day Response to Bulletin 96-03

Response to Requested Actions:

- 1) *Implement appropriate measures to ensure the capability of the ECCS to perform its safety function following a LOCA. The staff has identified three potential resolution options; however, licensees may propose others which provide an equivalent level of assurance that the ECCS will be able to perform its safety function following a LOCA. The three options identified by the staff are (1) Installation of a large capacity passive strainer design, (2) Installation of a self-cleaning strainer, and (3) Installation of a backflush system. Implementation is requested by the end of the first refueling outage starting after January 1, 1997.*

Response

Monticello's first refueling outage after January 1, 1997, is scheduled to start in January 1998. During the scheduled January 1998 refueling outage, large capacity passive strainers will be installed. It is anticipated that methodology being developed by the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group (BWROG) for strainer design, which will be documented in the "Utility Resolution Guidance (URG) for Resolution of ECCS Suction Strainer Blockage", will be used in the design of the new suction strainers. NRC approval of the URG in a timely fashion will be required to meet our scheduled implementation date. Confirmation of installation of new suction strainers will be reported within 30 days of completion/turnover of suction strainer installation project.

- 2) *TS should be proposed to support surveillances for components and systems installed in response to this bulletin and should include, where appropriate, for the option selected, surveillance testing of active features (i.e., Options 2 and 3), and visual inspections where they provide reasonable assurance that the component is operable.*

Response

Existing Monticello Technical Specification 4.7.A.1.c requires that: "A visual inspection of the suppression chamber interior including water line regions and the interior painted surfaces above the water line shall be made at each refueling outage". An evaluation of the large capacity passive strainer final design and corresponding strainer test results will be performed to determine if any modification or addition is required to the existing Monticello Technical Specification surveillance requirement for visual inspection of the suppression chamber interior.