

November 10, 1998

PDR

Mr. M. Wadley  
President, Nuclear Generation  
Northern States Power Company  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO INSPECTION REPORT 50-263/98015(DRP)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On October 14, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at the Monticello reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, the conduct of activities at the Monticello facility was characterized by safety-conscious operations and sound maintenance practices. The investigation team assembled by station management to determine the root cause of the offgas system problem was thorough and aggressive. The reactor startup following repairs to the offgas system was conducted in a controlled and deliberate manner. Operators and system engineers displayed excellent system awareness and identified degraded equipment, including a pinhole leak in a high pressure coolant injection valve. Conservative operability decisions were made when the degraded equipment was identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Anton Vegel, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 7

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Docket No.: 50-263  
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Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-263/98015(DRP)

cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Monticello  
State Liaison Officer, State  
of Minnesota

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