



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

December 18, 1997

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

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-263/97015(DRP) AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On November 24, 1997, 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 period, the conduct of activities at the Monticello facility was acceptable. Engineering personnel identified and aggressively pursued resolution of a turbine stop valve limit switch setpoint concern. Operations personnel demonstrated a good questioning attitude in their identification of degraded flow through the residual heat removal service water pump motor coolers and of other equipment problems. However, the diesel fire pump was inadvertently operated for about 1.5 hours without operator knowledge.

A violation with two examples for failing to follow administrative procedures was identified for initiating a temporary procedure change that invalidated the bases of an operability determination. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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PDR ADOCK 05000263
G PDR



M. Wadley

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

Sincerely,

/s/ G. E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
No. 50-263/97015(DRP)

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

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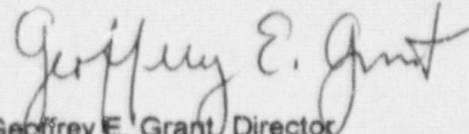
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DATE	12/18/97		12/12/97		12/18/97	12/ /97

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Sincerely,



Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Basket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

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State Liaison Officer, State
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