



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

December 23, 1997

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

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO PLANT PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN

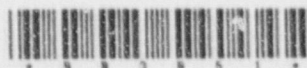
Dear Mr. Wadley:

On October 23, 1997, the NRC staff completed the semiannual Plant Performance Review (PPR) of the Monticello Nuclear Plant. The staff conducts these reviews for all operating nuclear power plants to develop an integrated understanding of safety performance. The results are used by NRC management for planning and allocation of inspection resources. The PPR for Monticello involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating inspection results and safety performance information for the period April 1997 through September 1997. PPRs provide NRC management with a current summary of licensee performance and serve as inputs to the NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) and senior management meeting reviews.

In the current PPR, we identified that overall plant performance was strong. In the operations area, performance improved over the previous period and was excellent overall. A configuration control issue with a service water pump operating for 46 hours unbeknownst to control room operators indicated a need to reinforce the expectation that proper equipment configuration be known and maintained and that thorough control panel walkdowns be conducted. Performance in the maintenance area remained excellent, while performance in engineering continued to be good. The strong support by engineering of the torus suction strainer replacement effort was overshadowed by inappropriately taking credit for containment overpressure to ensure net positive suction head for emergency core cooling pumps during an accident and in the failure to submit relief requests for limited inservice inspection examinations. In plant support, performance remained very good with strong support by radiation protection during the strainer replacement effort and good overall performance in security.

Our specialist inspections scheduled for the next six months are shown on the enclosed inspection plan. Resident inspections, including inspections from visiting residents, are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature, nor are the inspections of the Region-based project engineer, who will be regularly assisting the resident inspectors.

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M. Wadley

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We will inform you of any major changes to the enclosed inspection plan. If you have any questions, please contact me at (630) 829-9872.

Sincerely,

/s/ JMcB

J. W. McCormick-Barger, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 7

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

Enclosure: Inspection Plan

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

Docket File w/encl  
PUBLIC IE-01 w/encl  
SRI Monticello w/encl  
A. B. Beach w/encl  
DRS (2) w/encl  
DRP w/encl

RIII PRR w/encl  
Project Manager, NRR w/encl  
RIII Enf. Coordinator w/encl  
Deputy P.A w/encl  
TSS w/encl

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NAME	Kunowski:dp <sup>AK</sup>		JMcB	<i>JMB</i>	Leach/Creed <sup>TOL</sup>		Loughheed/Gardner		Gavula/Shelton	<i>GE</i>
DATE	12/2/97		12/2/97		12/2/97		12/3/97		12/3/97	

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ENCLOSURE

**MONTICELLO  
INSPECTION PLAN**

INSPECTION	TITLE/ PROGRAM AREA	NUMBER OF INSPECTORS	PLANNED INSPECTION DATES	TYPE OF INSPECTION - COMMENTS
IP 81110	Security/Plant Support	6	10/20-24/97 Completed	Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (RI)
IP 83750	Radiation Protection/ Plant Support	1	11/17-21/97 Completed	Radiation Protection (CI)
IP 82301	Emergency Preparedness/Plant Support	4	11/17-21/97 Completed	Annual Exercise (CI)
IP 86750	Radiation Protection/ Plant Support	2	2/9-13/98	Solid Radwaste and Shipping Inspection (CI)
IP 81700	Security/Plant Support	1	3/2-6/98	Security Inspection (CI)
IP 73753	ISI/Maintenance	1	3/23-28/98	Inspection of Inservice Inspection Program (CI)
IP 83750	Radiation Protection/ Plant Support	1	3/30-4/3/98	Radiation Protection (CI)
IPs 37550, 40500	E&TS/Engineering	4	5/11- 29/98	Engineering and Technical Support; Corrective Actions (CI)

IP - Inspection Procedure

CI - Core Inspection - Minimum NRC Program (mandatory all plants)

RI - Regional Initiative