



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

February 4, 1998

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

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-263/97018(DRP)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On January 12, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at the Monticello reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the seven-week period covered by this inspection, the conduct of activities at the Monticello facility was acceptable. For example, operations personnel responded appropriately to a loss of both recombiner trains and a resultant manual reactor scram. The subsequent reactor startup and two planned power changes were completed in a controlled manner. Engineering personnel identified that a Technical Specification-required test was not performed on an automatic depressurization system initiation inhibit switch. Radiation protection personnel demonstrated a strong commitment in reducing personnel exposure during a maintenance activity in a high dose area. However, inadequate planning on two occasions for performance of a surveillance test and maintenance activity resulted in generation of a reactor scram signal for 13 control rods and a reactor water level transient. Planning, maintenance, and operations personnel did not consider the compatibility of performing activities simultaneously.

During this period, the inspectors identified two discrepancies between the as-built plant condition, Technical Specifications, and the Updated Safety Analysis Report. Although these findings were not safety significant, they indicate technical inconsistencies between design documents. We understand that your staff is involved in an effort to validate the Updated Safety Analysis Report and we encourage you to continue to support this effort.

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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 and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/Marc L. Dapas for

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report  
No. 50-263/97018(DRP)

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

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