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

September 1, 1999

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

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO INSPECTION REPORT 50-263/99005(DRP)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On August 12, 1999, 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 operations at the Monticello facility was performed in a safety-conscious manner. Evolutions, such as surveillance tests and routine plant power changes, were well controlled, deliberate, and performed in accordance with procedures. However, your staff failed to enter a condition into the corrective action program after the cooling flow rate to the safety-related 12 core spray pump motor did not meet the proceduralized acceptance criterion. This was in violation of approved site administrative procedures. As you are aware, a robust corrective action program is an essential element in the conduct of plant operations.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCV is described in the attached inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if you choose to provide one) will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. D. Lanksbury

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-263/99005(DRP)

cc w/encl: Site General Manager, Monticello
Plant Manager, Monticello
S. Minn, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Public Service

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