

September 24, 1999

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

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION REPORT 50-263/99301(OL)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On August 25, 1999, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Monticello Nuclear Generating Station. The performance evaluation for each license applicant was finalized on September 10, 1999. During the examination validation and administration, the NRC examiners observed control room operations and reviewed several administrative and operating procedures. The enclosed report presents the results of the examination and concurrent operations inspection.

The NRC approved examinations were administered to two reactor operator license applicants. Both applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued reactor operator licenses for your Monticello Nuclear Generating Station.

This examination was your training organization's second opportunity to prepare an operator licensing examination in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Interim Revision 8. A high percentage (22%) of the written examination questions submitted by your staff did not meet the guidance contained in NUREG-1021. All of the unsatisfactory questions were significantly modified or replaced with acceptable questions prior to the test administration. The NRC examination team identified the area of written question development as needing improvement for future NRC examinations developed by your staff.

Based on the results of this examination and inspection, the NRC determined that a violation of NRC requirements contained in 10 CFR 55.49, "Integrity of Examinations and Tests," occurred on July 19, 1999. 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 subject 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 DC 20555-0001, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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M. Wadley

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response to this letter, if you choose to respond, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Steven A. Reynolds (for)
David E. Hills, Chief
Operations Branch

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

Enclosures: 1. Inspection Report 50-263/99301(OL)
2. Simulator Fidelity Report
3. Written Examination & Answer Key (RO)

cc w/encls 1 & 2: Site General Manager, Monticello
Plant Manager, Monticello
S. Minn, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Public Service

cc w/encls 1, 2, & 3: Timothy A. Witschen, Superintendent, Operations Training

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