



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

DEC 12 1972

Files (Docket No. 50-263)

THRU: D. L. Ziemann, Chief, ORB #2, L

*D. L. Ziemann*  
REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF MAIN STEAM ISOLATION VALVE WEEKLY EXERCISE -  
CHANGE NO. 4 (NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY - MONTICELLO)

By letter dated December 7, 1972, Northern States Power Company (NSP) requested a waiver of Technical Specification 4.7.D.1.d. which requires that "at least once per week, the main steam line power-operated isolation valves shall be exercised by partial closure and subsequent reopening". These exercises have been accomplished in the past on weekends when demand for power was low and power could be reduced without penalty to avoid reactor scram if the MSIV being exercised accidentally closed during exercise. However, because of the unusually low atmospheric temperatures (equivalent to  $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), the increased seasonal demand and with about 39% of the network generating capacity out of service, at the present time, it is desirable that the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant continue to operate at full rated power through the weekend of December 9-10, 1972, at rated power level.

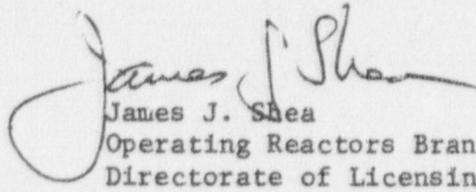
Although the Technical Specifications allow the steam flow trip signals to be set at 140%, NSP will not reset the steam flow signals from the committed value of 120% to 140% to avoid a scram caused by accidental MSIV closure. The valves could then be exercised without the necessity to reduce power to avoid unintentional scram, but NSP is not prepared to submit full documentation at this time in support of resetting steam flow trips from 120 to 140%.

Recognizing the somewhat arbitrary requirement for the frequency of MSIV exercise (weekly) and the urgent need for power in the Minneapolis area as evidenced by the necessity to reduce network voltage and resort to public announcements of the serious power shortage, we have concluded that the benefits from continued operation of the plant outweigh any advantage that can be claimed by reducing power level to exercise the MSIV. We have concluded therefore that the requirement to exercise MSIVs weekly can be omitted for this one time only, that is for the week ending December 9, 1972.

8709240306 870921  
PDR FOIA  
MENZ87-111 PDR

DEC 1 1972

We have concluded that omitting the MSIV exercises for the week ending December 9, 1972, does not present significant hazards considerations not described or implicit in the Monticello Safety Analysis Report and that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered.

  
James J. Shea  
Operating Reactors Branch #2  
Directorate of Licensing

cc: R. Tedesco, L:CS (2)  
D. J. Skovholt, L:OR  
RO (3)  
T. J. Carter, L:OR  
D. L. Ziemann, L:ORB #2  
J. J. Shea, L:ORB #2  
M. Jinks, DRA (2)  
R. M. Diggs, L:ORB #2  
PDR  
Local PDR