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DOCKET-50263--160

**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY**

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

November 16, 1972

Mr. A. Giambusso  
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects  
Directorate of Licensing  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT  
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

Failure of Reactor Building to Torus Vacuum Breaker Differential  
Pressure Control Switch

A condition occurred at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant recently which we are reporting to your office in accordance with Section 6.6.C.1 of Appendix A, Technical Specifications, of Provisional Operating License DPR-22.

On November 7, 1972, while performing a surveillance test, one of two differential pressure switches which initiate the reactor building-to-torus vacuum breakers was found failed in the untripped condition. The failure resulted in an inoperability of one of the two 100% vacuum relief breakers. The redundant unit was tested immediately and determined to be operable.

The cause of the failure has not been identified; however, it is known that the failure occurred in the bellows assembly of the DP switch. The bellows assembly of the switch was replaced, the DP switch was calibrated, and the system was functionally tested. The failed bellows assembly has been returned to the manufacturer for further analysis of the failure. Both differential pressure switches which serve to control the reactor building to suppression chamber vacuum breakers have been placed on an accelerated eight week surveillance test schedule.

Yours very truly,

*L. O. Mayer*

L. O. Mayer, P.E.  
Director Nuclear Support Services

LOM/mmm

cc: BH Grier



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