

From: [Peterson, Hironori](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response: Monticello Nuclear Plant Outage - COVID Risk to On-Site Employees
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:56:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Dear Ms. Jelen

Thank you for your email sharing your interest and concern with respect to personnel safety risk for the ongoing outage at the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant during this unprecedented COVID-19 National Health Emergency Pandemic. We truly appreciate your interest with respect to the NRC actions and responsibilities in these matters.

The NRC's focus before and during the pandemic has remained on making sure the plant is meeting safety and security requirements to ensure health and safety of the public. This also applies to plant employees at the facility. Your concern of plant personnel safety is very much of high importance for both the Licensee and the NRC. With the current challenges due to the COVID-19 health emergency, actions have been taken by the Licensee to protect their employees based on CDC guidance and any mandates provided by the State of Minnesota.

The NRC, however, does not have regulatory oversight in how licensees respond to COVID-19, for example wearing of masks or taking vaccinations. Other agencies like the CDC, state and local government provide that guidance. The NRC does not have direct jurisdiction in these matters; however, the NRC has observed that the licensee is responding to CDC guidance and State mandates. Each nuclear plant has a pandemic contingency plan designed to ensure proper steps are taken in a health emergency to maintain appropriate staffing under adverse conditions and to meet other safety and security requirements. Monticello continues to meet NRC safety and security regulations.

The NRC communicates with the Licensee consistently in reviewing their preparation for the outage. In fact, the onsite NRC resident inspectors have continually discussed and reviewed preparatory actions by the Licensee for the outage. This also included discussions with respect to the planning and preparation for assuring safety of their site personnel due to COVID.

We understand the concern noted in your email; however, we do not have any current issues that would give us concerns for the outage at this time.

If you are seeking further information about personnel health safety actions related to the Monticello outage, we would recommend that you contact the Licensee since they would be the best source of information.

We again appreciate your interest in reaching out to the NRC to share your concerns. If we can give you more assurance or you have further questions, please let us know.

Thank you

Hironori Peterson (Pete)

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