



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

December 13, 2021

Mr. Thomas Conboy
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT – CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL
LICENSE EXAMINATION

Dear Mr. Conboy:

In a telephone conversation on December 7, 2021, between Mr. C. Zoia, Chief Examiner, Mr. T. Iskierka-Boggs, Operations Engineer, and Mr. R. Becker, NRC Exam Writer, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant during the week of October 17, 2022. In addition, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of September 12, 2022.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 12 to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines by May 19, 2022. The written examination outline was provided to your staff on December 6, 2021. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in NUREG-1021, Examination Standard (ES)-2.1, "Preparing for Operator Licensing Initial Examinations," will be due by August 3, 2022. Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready to use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or rescheduled.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, your staff will need to provide adequate space and accommodations and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-3.5, "Administering Operating Tests," your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

ES-1.2, "Guidelines for Taking NRC Examinations," contains a number of NRC guidelines for the written examinations and operating tests as they are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. T. Iskierka-Boggs to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB control number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB control number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the NRC does not receive the preliminary applications at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final, signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for waiver or excusal requests call for their receipt at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the facility licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398 or as directed by Mr. T. Iskierka-Boggs when contacting him to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

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This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the OMB, approval number 3150-0018.

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. R. Becker has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions about the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Travis Iskierka-Boggs at 630-829-9818 or Patricia Pelke at 630-829-9868.

Sincerely,



Signed by Pelke, Patricia
on 12/13/21

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-263
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cc: Distribution via LISTSERV®
P. Albares, Training Manager

Letter to Thomas Conboy from Patricia J. Pelke dated December 13, 2021.

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT – CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION

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