



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 16, 2023

Mr. Christopher P. Domingos
Site Vice President
Northern States Power
Company - Minnesota
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT – REQUEST RR-001
TO USE LATER EDITION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS (ASME) CODE, SECTION XI, FOR CISI PROGRAM
(EPID L-2023-LLR-0002)

Dear Mr. Domingos:

By letter dated January 23, 2023 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML23023A122), Northern States Power Company (NSPM or the licensee), a Minnesota corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy, submitted a request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the use of a later edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, requirements at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

Specifically, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), “Applicable ISI [Inservice Inspection] Code: Use of subsequent Code editions and addenda,” NSPM proposed to use the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code, Section XI, for the third interval containment inservice inspection (CISI) program for class MC [Metal Containment] components subject to Repair/Replacement (R/R), post-R/R pressure testing, and nondestructive examination activities. The current Code of Record is the 2013 Edition of ASME Code, Section XI, with the exception that R/R activities are performed in accordance with the ASME Code, Section XI, 2007 Edition with the 2008 Addenda. The time period applicable for the use of the requested subsequent ASME Code edition is starting June 1, 2023, and for the duration of the third CISI interval, which is currently scheduled to end on or around September 8, 2029.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes, as set forth in the enclosed safety evaluation, that NSPM has adequately addressed all the regulatory requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

C. Domingos

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact the Monticello Project Manager, Brent Ballard, at 301-415-0680 or via e-mail at Brent.Ballard@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

V. Sreenivas, Acting Branch Chief
Plant Licensing Branch III
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc: Listserv



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
REQUEST NO. RR-001 TO USE A PROVISION OF A LATER EDITION OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) CODE, SECTION XI
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
DOCKET NO. 50-263

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated February 7, 2023 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML23039A044), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation (NSPM or the licensee), doing business as Xcel Energy, submitted a request to use the 2019 Edition of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) containment inservice inspection (CISI) activities subject to repair/replacement (R/R), post-R/R pressure testing (PT), and nondestructive examination (NDE), activities. As noted in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-12 (ML042090436) and RIS 2004-16 (ML042590067), licensees seeking to use later editions and addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI, including for repair/replacement activities, that have been incorporated by reference pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), are required to obtain U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) approval.

Specifically, pursuant to 10 CFR) 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), NSPM requested to use the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code, Section XI, for the third interval CISI program for class MC [Metal Containment] components subject to Repair/Replacement (R/R), post-R/R pressure testing, and NDE activities. The current Code of Record (COR) is the 2013 Edition of ASME Code, Section XI, with the exception that R/R activities are performed in accordance with the ASME Code, Section XI, 2007 Edition with the 2008 Addenda. The time period applicable for the use of the requested subsequent ASME Code edition is starting June 1, 2023, and for the duration of the third CISI interval, which is currently scheduled to end on or around September 8, 2029.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4), ASME Code Class components must meet the requirements set forth in Section XI of the ASME Code to the extent practical. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(ii), a licensee's ISI program must be updated every 10 years to comply with the latest Edition of the ASME Code incorporated by reference into the regulation, 18 months prior to the start of the inspection interval.

Regulation 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) notes that inservice examination may meet the requirements of later editions, or portions of editions, provided they have been incorporated into the regulations, and the related requirements and regulatory conditions are met.

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

3.1 Licensee's Proposed Use of Later Code Editions and Addenda

The licensee noted that the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code, Section XI, will become the COR for the sixth inspection interval of the MNGP ISI program beginning June 1, 2023. The containment ISI program is in the third interval, which is not scheduled to be updated until September 9, 2029. The current COR for the CISI program is the 2013 Edition of the ASME Code. The ISI and CISI interval start and end dates are not aligned; however, the R/R, PT and NDE activities are common to both programs. The licensee explained that updating the CISI R/R, PT, and NDE, portions of the program to the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code will allow the programs to use the same program documents and implementing procedures.

The licensee proposes to use the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code, Section XI, beginning June 1, 2023, and continuing for the duration of the third CISI interval to complete R/R, PT, and NDE, activities. MNGP will comply with all the NRC conditions related to these activities and the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code. CISI examinations and tests will continue to be selected and planned in accordance with the current CISI program COR.

3.2 NRC Staff Evaluation

The NRC staff notes that the CISI program is based on the 2013 Edition of the ASME Code and that inspections will continue to be selected, planned, and conducted, in accordance with this Edition. The staff further notes that the licensee is requesting to use the NRC endorsed 2019 Edition of the ASME Code to complete the R/R, PT, and NDE, activities of their CISI program. The staff finds this request acceptable because the 2019 Edition has been incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(a) and the licensee will follow the associated NRC conditions on the use of the 2019 Edition listed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b). The approval of this request is applicable for the remainder of the third interval of the CISI program, which is scheduled to end on or around September 8, 2029.

4.0 CONCLUSION

As set forth above, the NRC staff determines that it is acceptable for the licensee to use Section XI of the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code to implement the R/R, PT and NDE, activities of their CISI program. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that the licensee has adequately addressed all the regulatory requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv). Therefore, the NRC staff approves the use of the 2019 Edition of the ASME Code to implement the R/R, PT and NDE, activities at MNGP until the end of the third CISI interval.

Principal Contributors: B. Lehman, NRR/DEX/ESEB
D. Scully, NRR/DSS/SCPB

Date: May 16, 2023

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 (EPID L-2023-LLR-0002) DATED MAY 16, 2023

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BLehman, NRR

DScully, NRR

TKeene, OEDO

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NRR-028

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL3/PM	NRR/DORL/LPL3/LA	NRR/DEX/ESEB
NAME	BBallard	SRohrer	ITseng
DATE	5/2/2023	5/4/2023	3/24/2023
OFFICE	NRR/DSS/SCPB	NRR/DORL/LPL3/BC(A)	
NAME	BWittick	VSreenivas	
DATE	4/30/2023	5/16/2023	

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