



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 1, 2009

Mr. Timothy J. O'Connor
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

Dear Mr. O' Connor:

On August 20, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only–Security Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

In the Annual Assessment Letter dated March 4, 2009, the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the area of Human Performance with themes in the aspects of oversight of work controls (H.4(c)) and correct and adequate procedures (H.2(c)). In the first half of the 2009 assessment cycle, there were 10 documented findings of very low safety significance (Green), as well as a Severity Level-III violation with cross cutting aspects in the area of Human Performance. Five of these findings were associated with H.4(c), and one was associated with H.2(c). These findings were from more than one cornerstone (Mitigating Systems and Initiating Events).

Based on the continued human performance issues associated with oversight of work activities, the SCCI associated with this theme will remain open. The SCCI will remain open until all cross-cutting themes have been cleared in the area of Human Performance. To clear each theme, we will assess whether your corrective actions have resulted in a positive sustainable improvement in the area and will consider the number of findings in the theme. Given the

reduction of human performance issues associated with correct and adequate procedures, the cross-cutting issue associated with this theme will be closed. Although we have recently seen some positive changes in the behaviors that contributed to this theme, we will continue to monitor your actions to sustain performance improvements in this theme as part of the baseline inspection program.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, including baseline and other infrequently conducted inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through December 31, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Kenneth Riemer at 630-829-9628 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

K. Steven West, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Enclosure: Monticello Inspection/Activity Plan

DISTRIBUTION:
See next page

Letter to T. O'Connor from K. West dated September 1, 2009

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

cc w/encl: D. Koehl, Chief Nuclear Officer
Manager, Nuclear Safety Assessment
P. Glass, Assistant General Counsel
Nuclear Asset Manager, Xcel Energy, Inc.
J. Stine, State Liaison Officer, Minnesota Department of Health
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
R. Hiivala, Auditor/Treasurer,
Wright County Government Center
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce
Manager - Environmental Protection Division
Minnesota Attorney General's Office
Chairman, Wright County Board
Mayor of Monticello
Chairperson, Sherburne County
Administrator, City of Monticello
G. Mortensen, INPO

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| | | | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|------|------|
| OFFICE | RIII | RIII | RIII | RIII |
| NAME | KRiemer:cms* | KSWest | | |
| DATE | 08/27/09 | 08/27/09 | | |

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Letter to T. O'Connor from K. West dated September 1, 2009

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MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

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Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2009 - 12/31/2010

| Planned Dates | | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|---------------|------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Start | End | | | |
| | | BI ENG - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION | | 7 |
| 08/31/2009 | 10/02/2009 | IP 7111121 | Component Design Bases Inspection | |
| | | BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 10/19/2009 | 10/23/2009 | IP 7112103 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment | |
| 10/19/2009 | 10/23/2009 | IP 71151-BI01 | Reactor Coolant System Activity | |
| | | BI OL - LIC. OPERATOR REQUAL. PROGRAM EVALUATION | | 2 |
| 10/26/2009 | 10/30/2009 | IP 7111111B | Licensed Operator Requalification Program | |
| | | BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 12/14/2009 | 12/18/2009 | IP 7112101 | Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas | |
| 12/14/2009 | 12/18/2009 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 12/14/2009 | 12/18/2009 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| | | BI ENG - HEAD DROP ANALYSES | | 1 |
| 01/25/2010 | 02/12/2010 | IP 7111120 | Refueling and Other Outage Activities | |
| | | BI&UPRAT - ENG MODS/50.59 & EXTENDED POWER UPRATE | | 5 |
| 03/08/2010 | 03/26/2010 | IP 71004 | Power Uprate | |
| 03/08/2010 | 03/26/2010 | IP 7111117T | Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications | |
| 03/08/2010 | 03/26/2010 | IP 7111121 | Component Design Bases Inspection | |
| | | BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 04/19/2010 | 04/23/2010 | IP 7112101 | Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas | |
| 04/19/2010 | 04/23/2010 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| | | BI ENG - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION | | 2 |
| 04/26/2010 | 04/30/2010 | IP 7111107T | Heat Sink Performance | |
| | | BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 05/24/2010 | 05/28/2010 | IP 7112202 | Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation | |
| | | BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 06/14/2010 | 06/18/2010 | IP 7112101 | Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas | |
| 06/14/2010 | 06/18/2010 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 06/14/2010 | 06/18/2010 | IP 71151-BI01 | Reactor Coolant System Activity | |
| 06/14/2010 | 06/18/2010 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| 06/14/2010 | 06/18/2010 | IP 71151-PR01 | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent | |
| | | RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL 71003 - PHASE 2 | | 6 |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/16/2010 | IP 71003 | Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal | |
| | | BI EP - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION | | 2 |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/02/2010 | IP 7111402 | Alert and Notification System Testing | |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/02/2010 | IP 7111403 | Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing | |

Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2009 - 12/31/2010

| Planned Dates | | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|---------------|------------|---|--|----------------------|
| Start | End | | | |
| | | BI EP - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION | | 2 |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/02/2010 | IP 7111405 | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies | |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/02/2010 | IP 71151-EP01 | Drill/Exercise Performance | |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/02/2010 | IP 71151-EP02 | ERO Drill Participation | |
| 06/28/2010 | 07/02/2010 | IP 71151-EP03 | Alert & Notification System | |
| | | BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 10/18/2010 | 10/22/2010 | IP 7112103 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment | |
| | | OL PREP - MONTICELLO INIT PREP - NOV. 2010 | | 3 |
| 11/15/2010 | 11/19/2010 | W90221 | OL - INITIAL EXAM - DEC 2010 - MONT | |
| | | OL EXAM - MONTICELLO INIT EXAM - DEC. 2010 | | 3 |
| 12/06/2010 | 12/17/2010 | W90221 | OL - INITIAL EXAM - DEC 2010 - MONT | |