



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

March 5, 2012

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: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR MONTICELLO NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT (REPORT 05000263/2011007)**

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

On February 15, 2012, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

We also plan on conducting Temporary Instructions 2515/177 "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems (NRC Generic Letter 2008-01)," and 2515/182 "Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks."

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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 Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the 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/

Kenneth Riemer, Branch Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

T. O'Connor

-2-

We also plan on conducting Temporary Instructions 2515/177 "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems (NRC Generic Letter 2008-01)," and 2515/182 "Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks."

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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 Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the 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/

Kenneth Riemer, Branch Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

DISTRIBUTION:
See next page

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRPIII\1-Secy\1-Work In Progress\2012 EOC Letters\MON 2011 EOC Letter.docx
 Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available Sensitive Non-Sensitive
To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the concurrence box "C" = Copy without attach/encl
"E" = Copy with attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIII	N	RIII	E	RIII		RIII
NAME	NShah:cs		KRiemer				
DATE	02/29/12		02/29/12				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to T. O'Connor from K. Riemer dated March 5, 2012

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR MONTICELLO NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT (REPORT 05000263/2011007)

DISTRIBUTION:

Breeda Reilly
RidsNrrDorLpl3-1 Resource
RidsNrrPMMonticello
RidsNrrDirslrib Resource
Chuck Casto
Cynthia Pederson
Jennifer Uhle
Steven Orth
Jared Heck
Allan Barker
Carole Ariano
Linda Linn
DRPIII
DRSIII
Patricia Buckley
Tammy Tomczak
ROPAssessment.Resource@nrc.gov

Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
01/01/2012 - 06/30/2013

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		2
03/12/2012	03/16/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
03/12/2012	03/16/2012	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
		BI CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSP. & TI-177		7
03/19/2012	04/27/2012	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
03/19/2012	04/27/2012	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
		TI-182 - TI-2515/182 PHASE I - BURIED PIPING		1
05/14/2012	05/16/2012	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
		BI EPR - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		1
06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		4
09/10/2012	09/28/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		BI OLRQ - REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
10/09/2012	10/12/2012	IP 7111111A	Licensed Operator Requalification Program - Annual Review	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY - OP/MAINT/RP/PRC/PLN		2
12/01/2012	12/31/2012	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		OL PREP - MONTICELLO INIT PREP 01/2013		3
01/07/2013	01/11/2013	W90275	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2013 JANUARY - MONT	
		OL EXAM - MONTICELLO INIT EXAM 01/2013		3
01/28/2013	02/08/2013	W90275	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2013 JANUARY - MONT	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
03/04/2013	03/08/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
03/04/2013	03/08/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	

Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
01/01/2012 - 06/30/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
1	05/01/2013	08/31/2013	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	05/06/2013	05/10/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
