

December 6, 2001

Mr. Jeffrey S. Forbes
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
RE: SAFETY LIMIT MINIMUM CRITICAL POWER RATIO FOR CYCLE 21
(TAC NO. MB2855)

Dear Mr. Forbes:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 125 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-22 for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated August 30, 2001, as supplemented October 10 and November 16, 2001.

The amendment revises the TS safety limit minimum critical power ratio for two recirculation pump operation for Cycle 21.

A copy of our related safety evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 125 to DPR-22
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

cc:

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Monticello, MN 55362

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Monticello, MN 55362-9637

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ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML013400354

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DATE	11/27/01	11/27/01	11/26/01	12/5/01	12/6/01

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NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-263

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 125

License No. DPR-22

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (the licensee) dated August 30, 2001, as supplemented October 10 and November 16, 2001, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.2 of Facility Operating License No. DPR-22 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 125, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

William D. Reckley, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: December 6, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 125

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-22

DOCKET NO. 50-263

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains a marginal line indicating the area of change.

REMOVE

6

INSERT

6

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 125 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-22
NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
DOCKET NO. 50-263

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated August 30, 2001, as supplemented October 10 and November 16, 2001, the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (the licensee), requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The proposed amendment would revise the TS safety limit minimum critical power ratio (SLMCPR) for two recirculation pump operation for Cycle 21. In its letter dated November 16, 2001, the licensee stated that the reactor core will be loaded with the following combination of fuel assemblies for Cycle 21: 104 fresh GE14 assemblies, 144 once-burned GE11 assemblies, 128 twice-burned GE11 assemblies, four thrice-burned GE12 assemblies, and 104 thrice-burned GE11 assemblies.

The October 10 and November 16, 2001, supplements provided clarifying information that was within the scope of the original *Federal Register* notice and did not change the staff's initial proposed no significant hazards considerations determination.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee proposes to change the SLMCPR value specified in TS 2.1, "FUEL CLADDING INTEGRITY," from 1.11 to 1.10 for two recirculation loop operation when the reactor pressure is greater than 800 psia [pounds per square inch-absolute] and flow is greater than 10 percent of rated core flow.

The licensee's application dated August 30, 2001, describes the methodologies used to calculate the SLMCPR value. The Cycle 21 SLMCPR analysis was performed by Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas, LLC, using plant- and cycle-specific fuel and core parameters, and NRC-approved methodologies including NEDC-32505P, Revision 1 (R-Factor Calculation Method for GE11, GE12 and GE13 Fuels), NEDO-10958-A (GETAB), NEDC-32601P (Methodology and Uncertainties for Safety Limit MCPR Evaluations), NEDC-32694P (Power Distribution Uncertainties for Safety Limit MCPR Evaluation), and Amendment 25 to NEDE-24011-P-A (GESTAR-II).

Based on its review of the licensee's application dated August 30, 2001, as supplemented October 10 and November 16, 2001, the staff has concluded that the SLMCPR analysis for Monticello Cycle 21 operation using the plant- and cycle-specific parameters in conjunction with the approved method is acceptable. The proposed Cycle 21 SLMCPR will ensure that 99.9

percent of the fuel rods in the core will not experience boiling transition, which satisfies the requirements of General Design Criterion 10 of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 regarding acceptable fuel design limits. Therefore, the proposed change is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Minnesota State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 *FR* 50470). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: T. Huang

Date: December 6, 2001