

February 10, 2006

Mr. John T. Conway  
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 - USE OF SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS AND ADDENDA OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) CODE (TAC NO. MC8088)

Dear Mr. Conway:

By letter dated July 29, 2005, you requested, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval to use portions of a more recent edition and addenda of the ASME Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code) for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Specifically, you requested approval to apply the requirements of Subsubarticle ISTC-3540, "Manual Valves," of the 1998 Edition with 1999 Addenda of ASME Operations and Maintenance (OM) Code for exercising all manual valves at Monticello within the Inservice Testing (IST) program, through the end of the current (fourth) 120-month interval for the facility, specifically, May 31, 2012.

The applicable Code of record for the above mentioned facility is the ASME OM Code, 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda. The requirement in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv) states that IST of pumps and valves may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b), subject to the limitations and modifications listed in Paragraph (b) of 10 CFR 50.55a, and subject to NRC approval. Portions of editions or addenda may be used, provided that all related requirements of the respective editions or addenda are met.

The 1998 Edition including the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code were incorporated by reference into 10 CFR 50.55a (see 67 FR 60520, dated September 26, 2002, with an effective date of October 28, 2002). This rule imposes a limitation on Subsubarticle ISTC-3540, found in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), that requires an exercise interval of 2 years for manual valves within the scope of the ASME OM Code. Subsequent revisions to the 10 CFR 50.55a rule have not changed the above limitation on Subarticle ISTC-3540.

You requested approval to exercise manual valves in accordance with Subarticle ISTC-3540 of the 1998 Edition including the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code. You further acknowledged the requirement to test the manual valves, consistent with the limitation imposed by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), on a 2-year interval rather than the 5-year interval specified in the 2001 Edition and 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code, provided that adverse conditions (as defined in subsection ISTC) do not require more frequent testing. The NRC staff has identified no additional related requirements in the specified ASME Code Edition and Addenda that need to be met in order to implement the requested Subarticle ISTC-3540.

J. T. Conway

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Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff has reviewed your request and has determined that all regulatory provisions were adequately addressed for Monticello. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 1998 Edition up to and including the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for exercising manual valves at Monticello, subject to the limitation in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), through the end of the current 120-month interval, as stated above.

If you have any questions, please call the Project Manager, Mr. Peter Tam at 301-415-1451.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Timothy J. Kobetz, Acting Chief  
Plant Licensing Branch III-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

cc: See next page

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff has reviewed your request and has determined that all regulatory provisions were adequately addressed for Monticello. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 1998 Edition up to and including the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for exercising manual valves at Monticello, subject to the limitation in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), through the end of the current 120-month interval, as stated above.

If you have any questions, please call the Project Manager, Mr. Peter Tam at 301-415-1451.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Timothy J. Kobetz, Acting Chief  
Plant Licensing Branch III-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

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