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Northern States Power Company Minneapolis, Minn. 55401 Mr. L.O. Mayer	12-27-73	1-2-74	X			

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J.F. O'Leary	1 signed			XXX	XXX

CLASS	UNCLASS	PROP INFO	INPUT	NO CYS REC'D	DOCKET NO:
	XXX			40	50-263

DESCRIPTION:
Ltr reporting an abnormal occurrence at the Monticello Nuclear Plant.....concern the failure of the No. 12 Diesel generator to start using the No. 2 starting system....

ENCLOSURES:

ACKNOWLEDGED

DO NOT REMOVE

PLANT NAME: Monticello

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION 1-2-74

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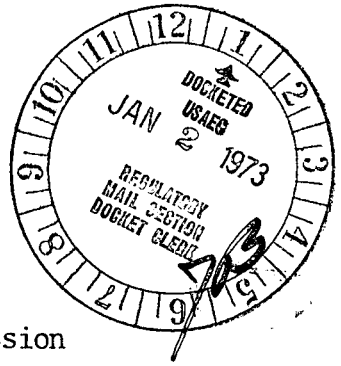
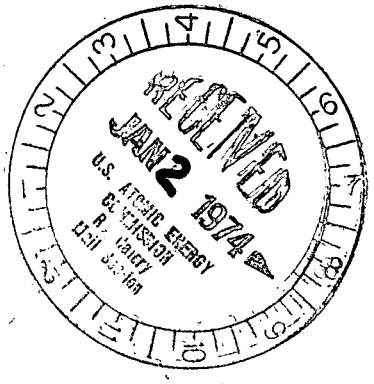
NSP

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

December 27, 1973





Mr. J. F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
Office of Regulation
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

Inoperability of No. 2 Starting System of No. 12 Diesel Generator

A condition occurred at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant which we are reporting to your office in accordance with Section 6.7.B.1, Abnormal Occurrence Reports, of the Technical Specifications of Provisional Operating License DPR-22.

On December 17, 1973, during routine surveillance testing, the No. 12 diesel generator could not be started using the No. 2 starting system. Investigation revealed that the No. 2 starting system air relay valve was inoperative and thus preventing the main air valve from releasing the air supply to the starting motors.

The relay valve was disassembled and the plunger piston found to be sticking in the cylinder bore. The piston was excessively lubricated with a light oil which was slightly sticky; however, the remainder of the valve was in good condition. All components were cleaned and the piston relubricated with silicone grease. The engine was then successfully cranked six times by the No. 2 starting system; proper performance was verified in each instance.

The air relays in the No. 1 starting system of No. 12 diesel generator and both starting systems of No. 11 diesel generator were disassembled and inspected; all were found to be in good operating condition with no excessive lubrication. The former lubricant was removed and the pistons relubricated with silicone grease. To insure reliable operation in the future, proper lubricant will be specified in the starting system preventive maintenance procedure.

This occurrence did not affect safe operation of the plant since the redundant No. 1 starting system of the No. 12 diesel generator was verified to be operable and would have started the engine in the event of an actual automatic initiation. Furthermore, the redundant #11 diesel generator was fully operable during the time the No. 2 starting system was inoperable.

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There has been one previous failure of a diesel starting system due to an air relay malfunction. The cause of that malfunction was attributed to the presence of foreign particles in the air relay bleed orifice. Other previous air starting system malfunctions which have occurred at Monticello and other facilities have included plugging, sticking, or other malfunctions of screens, lubricators and air motors. Considering the redundancy of the diesels and air starting systems, the corrective actions (primarily additional or improved preventive maintenance) which were taken for these malfunctions should result in an extremely low probability for the simultaneous multiple failures which must occur to prevent the diesel generator systems from performing their safety functions. Nevertheless, as previously reported, a design review of the diesel starting systems has been conducted by an independent consultant. Modifications to the systems, including the addition of moisture removal equipment, installation of larger air supply piping and replacement of the air relays, are presently under consideration by NSP.

Yours very truly,

L. O. Mayer

L. O. Mayer, PE
Director of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/kik

cc: J G Keppler
G Charnoff
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
ATTN: E A Pryzina