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PRICE

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**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

EARL EWALD  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

June 19, 1970

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

This letter is prompted by the extraordinary AEC public hearing proceedings concerning the licensing of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. These proceedings, which have just been recessed for the second time, are likely to result in substantial costs to Northern States Power Company and its customers, and to expose the people in our service area to the substantial risk of a curtailment of electric power with consequent hazards and losses. Delay or curtailment of service from Monticello requires excessive use of old generating plants which poses serious environmental considerations. Indeed, but for the coincidence of an extended strike of the sheet metal workers at the site, both of these very likely eventualities would be currently attributable to the delays encountered in the licensing procedure.

If the delays encountered in this licensing procedure are duplicated in connection with the other nuclear power plants scheduled for commercial service in the next few years, it can safely be asserted that the splendid promise of nuclear power will have had a very short life. Without regard to the competitive cost advantages and the environmental protection advantages of nuclear power, no electric utility with any sense of its responsibility to assure a reliable power generating system could rely on the timely availability of new nuclear power generating plants.

On January 10 of this year the Advisory Commission on Nuclear Safeguards concluded that the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

*Discussed in  
Expo report  
July 17, 1970*

*See Misc  
for comp. end*