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 AUTH. NAME: AUTHORITY AFFILIATION
 MAYER, L.O. Northern States Power Co.
 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: Submits addl info requested by NRC 791214 ltr re interim position for containment purge & vent valve operation. Util will remove permanently installed bypass capability & upgrade combustible gas control sys during Mar 1980 outage.

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 TITLE: Containment Purging

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

January 17, 1980

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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

Supplemental Response to NRC Request for Information on the
Demonstration of Containment Purge Valve Operability

In a letter dated October 22, 1979 from Mr Thomas Ippolito, Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #3, Division of Operating Reactors, USNRC, we were provided with a document entitled, "Interim Position for Containment Purge and Vent Valve Operation Pending Resolution of Isolation Valve Operability." We were requested to commit to operate in conformance with the interim position and provide information which demonstrates that we have initiated the purge and vent valve operability verification on an expedited basis. Our response was submitted in a letter dated November 14, 1979.

On December 14, 1979 we were informed by our Project Manager in the Division of Operating Reactors that our November 14, 1979 response did not adequately address Item (2.b) of the NRC Staff's "Interim Position for Containment Purge and Vent Valve Operation Pending Resolution of Isolation Valve Operability". We were informed that the existing key-locked bypass switch which permits opening AO-2387, AO-2896, CV-2384, and CV-2385 with a containment isolation signal present does not meet the Staff's guidelines since all three isolation signals (low reactor water level, high containment pressure, and high radiation in the ventilation plenum or fuel pool area) are bypassed in a single operation. This bypass capability was described in detail in our letter dated January 3, 1979. It is common to most boiling water reactors and it was our belief the design was acceptable to the NRC Staff. It provides a 2-inch vent path for containment pressure relief.

We continue to believe the bypass capability described above would not degrade containment integrity when used in conjunction with existing administrative controls governing its use. While the bypass capability has never been used at Monticello, it may be required for post-accident combustible gas control until such time as an improved combustible gas control capability is installed.

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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January 17, 1980


Following discussions with our Project Manager in which we were informed the NRC Staff will require modifications, we investigated the feasibility of a design change to provide separate bypass capability for each of the three containment isolation signals. The circuitry changes were found to be prohibitively extensive. In lieu of these changes, we agreed to:

- a. Remove the permanently installed bypass capability.
- b. Provide, in written procedures for combustible gas control, specific instructions for opening required containment vent valves through the use of temporary bypasses (i.e. electrical jumpers or lifted wires).

Following upgrading of the Monticello combustible gas control system the use of temporary bypasses will not be required.

The existing permanent bypass capability will be removed during the refueling outage scheduled to begin in February, 1980.

Please contact us if you have any questions related to this modification.



L O Mayer, PE
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/DMM/jh

cc: J G Keppler
G Charnoff

Attachment

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Docket No. 50-263

LETTER DATED JANUARY 17, 1980
SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO NRC REQUEST
FOR INFORMATION ON THE DEMONSTRATION OF
CONTAINMENT PURGE VALVE OPERABILITY

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, by this letter dated January 17, 1980 hereby submits a supplemental response to the NRC request dated October 22, 1979 for information on the demonstration of containment purge valve operability.

This request contains no restricted or other defense information.

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

By L. O. Mayer
L O Mayer
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

On this 17th day of January, 1980, before me a notary public in and for said County, personally appeared L O Mayer, Manager of Nuclear Support Services, and being first duly sworn acknowledged that he is authorized to execute this document on behalf of Northern States Power Company, that he knows the contents thereof and that to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, the statements made in it are true and that it is not interposed for delay.

Jeanne M Hacker

