

Docket No. 50-263

FEBRUARY 16 1978

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. L. O. Mayer, Manager
Nuclear Support Services
414 Nicollet Hall - Eighth Floor
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Gentlemen:

RE: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

By letter dated May 20, 1977, we requested certain specific information concerning your reactor vessel, its materials of construction, and surveillance specimens. Although your letters of July 22 and August 3, 1977, submitted in response to this request, provided a useful general discussion outlining the adequacy of your surveillance program, and the basis for your belief that the surveillance specimens are reasonably representative of the limiting materials in the reactor vessel beltline region, they do not provide the specific items of information requested.

This specific information is needed by the staff to verify that the operating limits in your Technical Specifications are in accordance with Appendices G and H to 10CFR50, and to assure that these limits are updated correctly throughout the life of the plant.

It is recognized that new material testing requirements were imposed by Appendices G and H, and therefore some of the material test results requested may not be available. If this is the case for your reactor vessel(s), please provide the results of the tests that were performed, and estimate the missing information in accordance with the guidance given in Section 5.3.2 of the Standard Review Plan.

As noted in our earlier letter on this subject, recent information indicates that some materials may be affected more by radiation than originally anticipated, leading to uncertainties in toughness properties throughout service life. Without more detailed information, estimates will have to be made on a conservative "worst case" basis. This will most likely result in

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overly conservative pressure-temperature limits, such as inconveniently high restrictions on the minimum temperature for core criticality.

Accordingly, we reiterate our request that you supply each of the specific items of information listed in the enclosure to our letter of May 20, 1977, and request that such submittal be made within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
M. Grotenhuis

for Don K. Davis, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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February 16, 1978

cc:

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