



Northern States Power Company

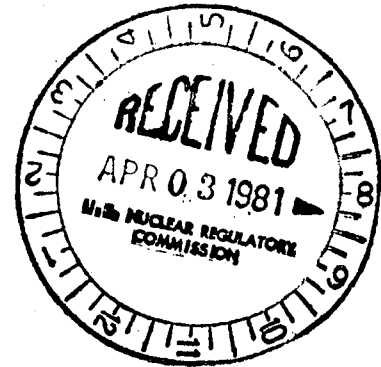
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
Telephone (612) 330-6071

Central Files

D. E. Gilberts
Senior Vice President
Power Supply

March 3, 1981

Mr. James G. Keppler
Director, Region III
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Dear Mr. Keppler:

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

Status on IE Bulletin No. 79-26, Revision 1

NSP is participating in an EPRI program to investigate the feasibility of using a non-destructive examination (NDE) technique to monitor control blades for boron loss. Delays in the development of the special NDE equipment has slipped the schedule such that our response to item four of IE Bulletin No. 79-26 cannot be completed within the one year deadline.

The most highly exposed control blade was removed from the Monticello core on March 6, 1980. The B¹⁰ depletion averaged over the upper one-fourth of this control blade is 33 percent. The NDE of this blade, completed on January 20, 1981, showed no positive indication of boron loss. Boron absorber tubes from this blade have now been prepared for shipment to Vallecitos for destructive examination. It is expected that the results of the destructive examination can be reported by the end of April, 1981.

If additional information is required, please communicate directly with plant management.

Yours truly,

D. E. Gilberts
Senior Vice President
Power Supply

cc: Mr. C. H. Brown
Mr. G. Charnoff
NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Washington, D. C. 20555

DEG:nk

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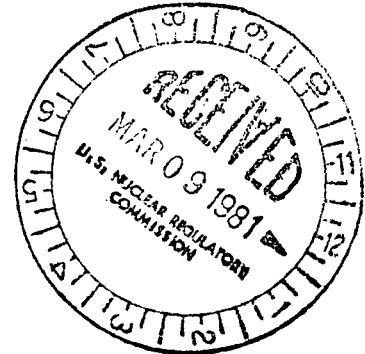
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