

Docket No. 50-263

AUGUST 29 1978

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. L. O. Mayer, Manager
Nuclear Support Services
414 Nicollet Mall - 8th Floor
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Distribution

✓ Docket
ORB #3
Local PDR
NRC PDR
Tippolito
SSheppard
RBevan
Attorney, OELD
OI&E (3)
DEisenhut
TBAbernathy
JRBuchanan
ACRS (16)

W. Russell

Gentlemen:

A number of instances of control rods failing to fully insert on scram have occurred over the past few years. The typical reported event involves a number of rods stopping short of the fully inserted position and then settling back to notch position "02" or six inches short of full insertion.

It is the staff's understanding that while failure to fully insert to the "00" position has occurred at a number of plants, not all of these events have been reported, perhaps because the event was not considered to have sufficient safety significance. Therefore, it is difficult for the staff to determine if instances of control rods failing to insert are decreasing or are indicative of a generic problem with potential safety implications. To enable a better understanding of the number of facilities affected and any trend in the number of rods failing to insert on each scram, we are requesting all licensees with operating BWRs to review their records for calendar year 1977. We would appreciate receiving a letter within 30 days that states that either no such events occurred at your facility(s) or that within 90 days of this letter you will provide a summary tabulation of the events. For each such event, you should identify the number of rods not fully inserted, the position of the rods, the cause of failure to fully insert and any related maintenance activities. Reference to reports that already describe such events is acceptable.

We recommend that you maintain an ongoing tabulation of any additional such events that may occur during the calendar year 1978. Should our evaluation of the 1977 data warrant, we may make a similar request for data covering calendar year 1978.

3rd

ccp

OFFICE ➤						
SURNAME ➤						
DATE ➤						

AUGUST 29 1978

This request for generic information was approved by GAO under a blanket clearance number B-180225(R0536); this clearance expires June 30, 1981.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

OFFICE >	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3			
SURNAME >	SSheppard	RBevan:mjf	Tippolito			
DATE >	8/25/78	8/15/78	8/29/78			

CC
Gerald Charnoff, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and
Trowbridge
1800 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

The Environmental Conservation Library
Minneapolis Public Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Arthur Renquist, Esquire
Vice President - Law
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Mr. L. R. Eliason
Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company
Monticello, Minnesota 55362

Russell J. Hatling, Chairman
Minnesota Environmental Control
Citizens Association (MECCA)
Energy Task Force
144 Melbourne Avenue, S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Mr. Kenneth Dzugan
Environmental Planning Consultant
Office of City Planner
Grace Building
421 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Sandra S. Gardebring
Executive Director
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
1935 W. County Road B2
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Mr. Steve Gadler
2120 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Anthony Z. Roisman
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005