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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

No. 77-223
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Mailed - December 20, 1977)

ASLB GIVES NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPENT FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY AT MONTICELLO (MINNESOTA) NUCLEAR PLANT

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has given notice that a hearing will be held at a future date concerning a proposed amendment to Northern States Power Company's operating licensing for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant in Wright County, Minnesota, about 35 miles northwest of Minneapolis. The proposed amendment would permit modification of the spent fuel storage pool to increase storage capacity from 740 fuel assemblies up to 2237 fuel assemblies by replacing the storage racks.

In response to a September 19, 1977, notice of proposed issuance of the amendment which provided opportunity for a hearing, a timely petition was filed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board appointed to rule on the petition has granted it and determined that the hearing will be held.

Members of the Licensing Board who will conduct the hearing are Dr. Walter H. Jordan and Dr. Richard F. Cole, technical members, and Mr. Robert M. Lazo, an attorney and Chairman of the Board. Dr. Jordan, a retired nuclear physicist, resides in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Members Cole and Lazo are full time members of the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

The Licensing Board has scheduled a prehearing conference on January 31, 1978, to discuss pertinent matters with the parties to the proceeding. The conference will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31, in Courtroom No. 2 (7th floor), U.S. Federal Courthouse, 316 N. Roberts Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. It will be open to the public. The time and place for the hearing and additional prehearing conferences, if any, will be the subjects of further notice.

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Any person who wishes to make an oral or written statement at the hearing may file a request to make a limited appearance. A person permitted to make a limited appearance does not become a party but may state his position and raise questions which he would like to have answered to the extent they are within the scope of the hearing. Persons desiring to make a limited appearance are requested to inform the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, by January 19, 1978.

Documents and correspondence related to the proceeding will be available for inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Environmental Conservation Library, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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