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FROM: Department of Agriculture Washington, D. C. 20250 T. C. Byerly	DATE OF DOC: 7-17-72	DATE REC'D 7-18-72	LTR x	MEMO	RPT	OTHER
TO: D. R. Muller	ORIG 1 signed	CC	OTHER	SENT AEC PDR <u>X</u> SENT LOCAL PDR <u>X</u>		
CLASS: <u>U</u> PROP INFO	INPUT	NO CYS REC'D 1	DOCKET NO: 50-263			

DESCRIPTION:
Ltr furnishing comments on Draft Enviro
Statement for the Monticello, Unit # 1....
trans the following:

ENCLOSURES:
Comments of the Soil Conservation Service
Comments of the Forest Service

ACKNOWLEDGED
DO NOT REMOVE
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PLANT NAMES: Monticello Nuclear Generating
Plant, Unit # 1

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION 7-18-72 fod

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

50-263

July 17, 1972

Mr. Daniel R. Muller
Assistant Director for
Environmental Projects
Directorate of Licensing
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545



Dear Mr. Muller:

We have had the draft environmental statement for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1, reviewed in the relevant agencies of the Department of Agriculture. Comments of the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service, both agencies of the Department, are enclosed.

Sincerely,

T. C. Byerly
T. C. BYERLY
Assistant Director
Science and Education

Enclosures

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The Soil Conservation Service statement on Monticello Nuclear
Generating Plant, Northern States Power Company, Minn.

The draft environmental statement for the project appears to be a
very thorough document. We are glad to learn a system of monitoring
the effect of the thermal pollution is underway. It appears to us
a qualified research agency could make a valuable contribution in
the direction and interpretation of the monitoring. We are especially
concerned about the effect the increased water temperature might have
on animal and plant life in the river.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



Re: Draft Environmental Statement
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

As you requested we have reviewed the subject statement relating to the conversion of a provisional operating license granted to the Northern States Power Company to an operating license for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

The plant site is located on the Mississippi River about 3 miles northwest of the town of Monticello in Wright County, Minnesota. The statement indicates that 220 acres of land was removed from agriculture use as a result of plant construction. The statement does not report how much land was used for transmission lines. In each case we believe the statement should provide the acreage of woodland that was cleared.

Environmental considerations involved in the location, construction, and maintenance of the transmission lines are presented. However, the statement does not discuss methods used for disposal of waste vegetation cleared from land acquired for new lines. The question could be asked--is Northern States utilizing non air polluting practices alternative to open burning in disposing of vegetation cleared from rights-of-way?

On page V-32, reference is made to the environmental radiation monitoring program which is also well described in the supplemental environmental report. However, we recommend that provisions for implementing the monitoring program be made more clear.

Regulatory

File Cy.

