

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Beltz, Terry
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 8:07 AM
To: 'Adams, Glenn D.'
Cc: 'Eckholt, Gene F.'; Hunt, Christopher; Yoder, Matthew; Wong, Emma
Subject: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant - Request for Additional Information re: License Amendment Request to Support Fuel Storage Changes (TAC No. ME9893)
Attachments: Monticello - Fuel Storage Change LAR - Request for Additional Information (TAC No. ME9893).docx

Dear Mr. Adams:

By letter dated October 30, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12307A433), Northern States Power Company – Minnesota, doing business as Xcel Energy, Inc., submitted a license amendment request to revise the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Technical Specifications to support fuel storage system changes and a revised criticality safety analysis that addresses legacy fuel types and new fuel designs.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in the Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Chemical Engineering Branch (ESGB) of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is currently reviewing your submittal. The ESGB staff has determined that additional information is required to complete its review. The draft request for additional information (RAI) is attached.

You may accept this draft RAI as a formal Request for Additional Information and respond to the questions by March 28, 2013. Alternatively, you may request to discuss the contents of this RAI with the NRC staff in a conference call, including any change to the proposed response date.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Terry A. Beltz, Senior Project Manager
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Created By: Terry.Beltz@nrc.gov

Recipients:
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Tracking Status: None
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"Wong, Emma" <Emma.Wong@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
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Options
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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST SUPPORTING SPENT FUEL STORAGE CHANGES

SPENT FUEL POOL NEUTRON ABSORBING MATERIAL

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY – MINNESOTA

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-263

By letter dated October 30, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12307A433), Northern States Power Company – Minnesota, doing business as Xcel Energy, Inc., submitted a license amendment request to revise the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) Technical Specifications to support fuel storage system changes and a revised criticality safety analysis that addresses legacy fuel types and new fuel designs.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff in the Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Chemical Engineering Branch of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that additional information is required to complete its review.

The NRC staff requests the following information:

1. When was the last time a neutron attenuation test was performed (in-situ or coupon) for the Boral in the MNGP spent fuel pool?
2. When is the next planned neutron attenuation test at MNGP?
3. Your application states that Boral integrity is managed using the Water Chemistry Aging Management Program and One-time Inspection Program as described in NUREG-1865. While the use of Industry and historical plant operating experience is useful for informing a neutron absorbing material aging management program, it is not an adequate replacement for physical testing. Additionally, your Water Chemistry Aging Management Program does not include neutron attenuation testing. The concern is how MNGP will continue to monitor and mitigate any degradation or deformation of your Boral so that it will not reduce the neutron attenuation capability of the material in the future.
 - a. Discuss whether you plan on performing in-situ neutron attenuation testing on the Boral panels installed in the spent fuel pool? If so, provide the frequency, acceptance criteria,

and proposed corrective actions should the acceptance criteria not be met after a given test.

- b. Alternatively, if in-situ testing will not be performed, describe the method you will use to detect any degradation, deformation, or reduction in neutron attenuation capability of your Boral, and what actions will be taken to monitor and mitigate future degradation, deformation, or reduction in neutron attenuation capability.