



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210  
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

December 20, 2016

Mr. Peter A. Gardner  
Site Vice President  
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant  
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota  
2807 West County Road 75  
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS –  
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Dear Mr. Gardner:

We have received your corporate letter, L-MT-16-067, dated November 22, 2016, in response to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Issue Summary 2016-09, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations." In this letter, you requested initial operator licensing examinations be scheduled for October 2018, and November 2020, at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. In response, we scheduled initial license examinations for the weeks of:

- October 22 and 29, 2018, with an on-site validation date of September 24, 2018;
- October 26 and November 2, 2020 with an onsite validation date of September 21, 2020.

In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately, upon discovery, of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

We understand that your staff will develop the 2018 and 2020 examinations for the initial operator licensing exam, unless we determine it is necessary for the NRC to develop an examination in which case, we will notify you immediately upon discovery of that need. Because your letter indicated that there were more than nine applicants being considered for the examinations, these examinations were scheduled for 2 weeks. Please inform us if the number of applicants decline below 10 for any examination as this will impact the examination schedule. Also, please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you need to change the scheduled dates for the examinations.

P. Gardner

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A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 150 days prior to the examination informing the training manager of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination date, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the Training Program.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.930 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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P. Gardner

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**/RA/**

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief  
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