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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

August 8, 1972

Mr Boyce H Grier, Regional Director
U S Atomic Energy Commission
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr Grier:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
AEC Docket No. 50-263
Valve Wall Thickness Verification

In response to your letter of June 29, 1972 concerning the wall thickness of valves within the reactor coolant system boundary of our Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, the following information summarizes our efforts to date and our future direction of endeavor.

The valves within the reactor coolant pressure boundary, as defined in subsection 50.55 (a) of 10 CFR 50, that are over $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch nominal pipe size in water lines and in steam lines, respectively, have been identified and listed by system, manufacturer, and valve size, class, and type.

Knowledge of any valve in our system with inadequate wall thickness would, of course, be of great concern to us. We have had some assurance in the fact that through hydrostatic tests at pressures well above operating pressures that these valves in the primary system are at the present capable of providing integrity to our pressure boundary system. In addition, we are unaware of any valve failures in either fossil or nuclear plants due to inadequate wall thickness. Nevertheless, we are concerned with any question or doubt in our plant's safety.

A program is being developed which will assure that the valves within the reactor coolant system boundary have adequate wall thickness. A definite plan will be submitted when investigation of several relevant factors are completed. Some of these factors are:

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NORTH AMERICAN STATES POWER COMPANY

Mr B H Grier

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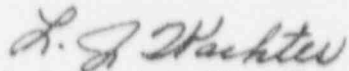
1. Estimation of radiation levels, including escalated levels over the three year period.
2. Development of ultrasonic techniques to measure wall thickness within a maximum error of repeatability and accuracy mutually agreed to.
3. Estimation of time per valve and for entire program, which includes all associated activities.
4. Factoring the program into the Monticello's Inservice Inspection Program.

It appears that the most practical method of measuring valve wall thickness in an operational plant is by ultrasonic techniques. It is our intention these techniques will be developed and adequate testing performed to verify mutually agreed to accuracy.

We will inform you on the details of the program and schedule within ninety days, and will meet completion of the program in your specified three year limit.

We trust that the above is responsive to your letter and are prepared to discuss this matter at your convenience.

Yours very truly,



L J Wachter, Vice President
Power Production & System Operation

LJW/ms