

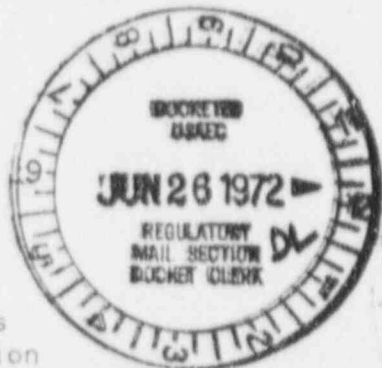
NSP

Regulatory

File Cy:

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

June 19, 1972



Mr. A. Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50263 License No. DPR-22

Failure of a Control Rod Drive to Fully Insert During a Scram

A condition occurred at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant recently which we are reporting to your office in accordance with provisions of Section 6.6.C.1 of Appendix A, Technical Specifications, of the Provisional Operating License DPR-22. The Region III Compliance Office has been notified of the occurrence.

During a reactor scram on May 23, 1972, the control rod drive at location 22-31 was automatically scrammed from notch '48' (full out) to notch '02' (6" from full in). The control room operator after observing the '02' notch indication, manually inserted the drive to the '00' notch position (full in). A check of the control rod drive scram timing recorder confirmed that the drive had scrammed from notch '48' to notch '02'. The scram time data as determined from the scram timing recorder for control rod 22-31 verified that the Technical Specification scram insertion time for the 10%, 50%, and 90% insertion was satisfied.

Prior to plant restart the drive was exercised and scram timed. Normal operation was verified by withdrawing and inserting the control rod drive using normal drive water pressure. The drive was then fully withdrawn and scrammed. It went full in.

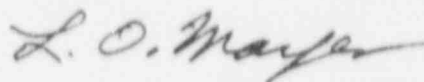
The failure to fully insert is attributed to excessive leakage across the stop piston seals to the extent that the last buffer hole in the piston tube can not pass all the water as the drive reaches notch '02'. A hydraulic lock thus forms which prevents continued scram insertion of the control rod drive. (The purpose of the buffer holes is to progressively shut off the flow of water to provide a gradual deceleration of the drive piston and index tube at the end of the drive travel during a scram.) The drive will be replaced at the next major cold shutdown outage.

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A Significant Operating Event report will be available at the plant for the Compliance Inspector.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. O. Mayer".

L. O. Mayer, P.E.
Director of Nuclear Support Services

cc: B H Grier

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CONTROL NO: 3465

FROM: Northern States Power Co. Minneapolis, Minn. 55401 L. O. Mayer	DATE OF DOC: 6-19-72	DATE REC'D 6-26-72	LTR X	MEMO	RPT	OTHER
TO:	ORIG	CC	OTHER	SENT AEC PDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SENT LOCAL PDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mr. A. Giambusso	3 signed	37				
CLASS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROP INFO	INPUT	NO CYS REC'D 40	DOCKET NO: 50-263			
DESCRIPTION: Ltr adv of failure of a control rod drive to fully insert during a scram on 5-23-72.....		ENCLOSURES:				
PLANT NAMES: Monticello Plant		<p align="center">ACKNOWLEDGED DO NOT REMOVE</p>				

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION DL 6-26-72

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