

NSP

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

November 8, 1977

Mr. Gaston Fiorelli, Chief
Reactor Operations and Nuclear Support Branch
Region III
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Fiorelli:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

Your letter of October 14, 1977, identified an item which appeared to be in noncompliance with NRC requirements and requested that we reply within 20 days of receipt of letter. The noncompliance, as stated, was:

Contrary to Technical Specifications 6.5 and 6.5.C.3 and Section IV.A of your procedure, NSP-PT-1, liquid penetrant testing was performed on control rod drive collets between September 14 and 22, 1977, by a noncertified technician.

When the Control Rod Drive (CRD) collets were inspected, the only NSP approved liquid penetrant inspection procedures available were NSP-VS-1 and NSP-NPT-1. These procedures were prepared and approved for use during the 1975 and 1977 refueling outages, respectively, for inspection of ASME Code-related pressure boundary components. The ASME Code applicable to in-service inspection requires NDE to be performed by certified personnel and the procedure included this requirement. However, the CRD collets are not pressure boundary or code-related components. Although the technician was not certified in accordance with SNT-TC-1A, his qualifications were more than sufficient to assure quality in the performance of the collet liquid penetrant examination.

This infraction has been discussed with the quality engineers and other personnel responsible for processing work control documents. The importance of using appropriate procedures and assuring that personnel qualifications are in accordance with procedure requirements was emphasized. We believe that this action is sufficient to prevent a recurrence.

Should you have any questions concerning our response, please communicate directly with the plant management.

Yours very truly,

L. J. Wachter
L. J. Wachter

Vice President - Power Production
and System Operation

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cc: Mr. Victor Stello
Mr. G. Charnoff
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency