

NSP

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401



February 20, 1973

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



Dear Mr. Giambusso:

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

Supplementary Information Supporting a Technical
Specification Change Request Dated January 31, 1973

On February 2, 1973 we sent you the above referenced Technical Specification change request asking that the changes be expedited to be available for our forthcoming outage. On February 16, 1973, Mr. J Shea verbally requested additional information to be used in the Staff safety evaluation of the changes. This letter further documents the nature of work intended to be performed under the Technical Specification changes.

Preventive maintenance of control rod drives is expected during each refueling outage. The normal procedure is to remove a drive and immediately replace it with a rebuilt spare drive. On occasion a replacement drive may not be installed immediately; in this event a blank flange is installed over the CRD housing to provide the same protection from water leakage as otherwise provided by the drive. The flange (or drive) is redundant to the seal provided between the control rod lower casting and the two inch CRD housing seat. As a precaution for the unlikely event of disruption of the seal during the short interval of time when the CRD housing is open, a special flange is available. A valve is mounted on this flange such that it can be readily installed against leakage flow. Once in place, flow can be stopped by closing the valve. Removing control rod drives and installing blank flanges on the CRD housings after the control cell is voided, in accordance with proposed Specification 3.10.E, does not impair safety. While the number of blank flanges used at any one time is expected to be minimal, we see no reason for limiting the flexibility to a specific number of installed flanges. The requested Technical Specification changes in no way affect the probability of a loss of the seal between

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the control rod lower casting and the CRD housing seat. The potential for personnel exposure, likewise, is unaffected by the requested changes. Maintenance personnel who remove and install the drives and flanges will wear waterproof protective clothing as otherwise prescribed for this work.

The sequence of events in voiding a control cell is as follows: 1) remove the two fuel assemblies in opposite corners of the cell; 2) insert a blade guide (a device consisting of two dummy fuel assemblies, replacing those assemblies removed in the previous step); 3) remove the two remaining fuel assemblies; 4) withdraw the control rod blade; and 5) remove the blade guide. Loading the cell is done in the reverse order. The control blade uses fuel assemblies or the blade guide to keep it perfectly upright; the fuel assemblies, when being loaded, use the control blade (which forces against the adjacent fuel assembly or blade guide) to guide the element into its correct position. Therefore, the blade guide is required for intermediate loading and unloading steps. Certain cells must be voided in this manner during the outage to allow for curtain removal and to permit the required in-service inspections.

We appreciate the efforts you have made to expedite the review of our requested changes. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Yours very truly,

L. O. Mayer

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

LOM/MHV/br

cc: B H Grier
G Charnoff
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Attn. K Dzigan

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Mr. Giambusso		1					
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			40	50-263			
DESCRIPTION:				ENCLOSURES:			
Ltr re Tech Specs Change dtd 1-31-73.....furnishing Suppl info supporting request for a change to Tech Specs dtd 1-31-73.....							
PLANT NAMES: Monticello							

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION 2-24-73 AB

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