

NSP

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

July 25, 1978

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

Dear Mr. Fiorelli:

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

Your letter of July 6, 1978, identified an item which appeared to be in noncompliance with NRC requirements and requested a reply within 20 days of receipt of your letter. The noncompliance, as stated, was --

Contrary to Section 3.1.A of the Technical Specifications (Table 3.1.1), the required minimum number of operable APRM channels per trip system was not available in the reactor protective system during the startup on June 6, 1978.

During a normal power ascension, four of six APRMs were discovered to be reading three to four percent low due to power shape changes. The gain settings were immediately corrected. This event was designated as Reportable Occurrence M-RO-78-11, and a Licensee Event Report was submitted.

Operating procedures have been changed to require APRM gain checks every 10 percent of rated power change as opposed to the previous rule of every two hours during load changes. (Rates as high as 30 percent of rated power per hour are permissible.)

Procedures have been revised to require that an operator enter all gain adjustments in the control room log. In addition, the Shift Supervisor must be notified before adjusting APRM gains.

The infraction has been discussed with the personnel involved. The importance of good communications between the nuclear engineers and operations personnel was stressed.

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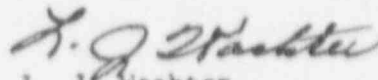
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It is believed that the above actions are responsive to the concerns expressed in IE Report 50-263/78-07 and will prevent similar occurrences in the future.

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

Yours very truly,



L. J. Wachter
Vice President - Power Production
and System Operation

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff