

PDR

50-263

OCT 06 1975

Karl R. Goller, Assistant Director for Operating Reactors, RL
THRU: Dennis L. Ziemann, Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #2, RL

MONTICELLO FEEDWATER SPARGER CRACKS

Reference: Preliminary Notification of Event or Unusual Occurrence,
PN-75-97, 9/26/75

I investigated the event described in the above reference to determine whether Licensing should initiate any action. Sources of information were:

1. N. Choules, Region III Inspector
2. L. Taylor, Nuclear Safety and Technical Services Engineer, NSPCo

I found that:

1. A scheduled inspection of the feedwater spargers by means of a television camera disclosed what appears to be a crack in one of the four spargers.
2. If the crack is confirmed, the licensee will replace all four spargers with the most advanced design sparger. Installation of new spargers would extend the refueling outage by approximately two weeks to October 31, 1975.
3. The crack appeared similar to those found in the feedwater spargers at Dresden 2 and 3 and Quad Cities Unit 2.
4. The following corrective actions have been or will be taken by Northern States Power Company (NSPCo) prior to returning the plant to service:
 - a. Make a positive determination whether or not a crack is present in the feedwater sparger.
 - b. Replace all four feedwater spargers if presence of crack is confirmed.
 - c. The NSPCo will submit a report to NRC concerning the cracks.
5. Press releases have not been made by Northern States Power or I&E Region III.

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6. The plant's scheduled date to return to power will slip from October 17 to October 31, 1975, if the feedwater spargers are replaced.

Conclusion

Northern States Power Company and its NSSS vendor, GE, are currently evaluating available data to verify whether or not a crack is present. Completion of this evaluation is expected by October 4, 1975. NSP will submit a report with regard to the apparent crack, if confirmed, to NRC. The licensee's program is considered acceptable and no immediate licensing action is anticipated.

Original Signed by
Bartholomew C. Buckley

B. C. Buckley
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Reactor Licensing

cc: B. Rusche
E. Case
R. Boyd
D. Eisenhut
S. Varga
R. Purple
G. Lear
R. Reid
R. Heineman
K. Seyfrit
R. Maccary

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