

MAR 5 1973

Docket No. 50-263

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. L. O. Mayer
Director of Nuclear Support
Services
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed your request dated February 20, 1973, for authorization to operate the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant Unit 1, authorized by Provisional Operating License No. DPR-22, with Reload 1 fuel bundles in the core. According to your plan, twenty-eight Reload 1 fuel bundles will replace an equal number of the initial Monticello fuel bundles during the March-April 1973 refueling outage when the average fuel exposure will have reached approximately 6800 MWd/t. The Reload 1 fuel will have an average U-235 enrichment of 2.30%, slightly higher than the original fuel bundle average enrichment, and will contain gadolinium that is uniformly disbursed axially in three of the fuel rods in each bundle for supplementary reactivity control. Sixty-four of the original 216 temporary fixed poison curtains will be retained in the core to supplement reactivity control by the control rods.

Based on the information you have provided, we have determined that the proposed Reload 1 fuel bundles for Monticello are identical in all important aspects to those for other nuclear power plants that we have reviewed and approved. We have concluded that the first partial refueling of the Monticello core with Reload 1 fuel bundles containing gadolinium does not involve an unreviewed safety question or a change to the Technical Specifications. Therefore, in accordance with paragraph 50.59 (a) of 10 CFR Part 50, you may refuel with Reload 1 fuel bundles as you have described in your letter of February 20, 1973.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
D. J. Skovholt

Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for
Operating Reactors
Directorate of Licensing

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-466-983

9212090294 730305
PDR ADOCK 05000263
P PDR

MAR 5 1973

cc: Gerald Charnoff
Shaw, Pittman, Potts, Trowbridge & Madden
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Howard J. Vogel, Esquire
Knittle & Vogel
814 Flour Exchange Building
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Steve Gadler, P. E.
2120 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Harriett Lansing, Esquire
Assistant City Attorney
City of St. Paul
638 City Hall
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Ken Dzigan
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
717 Delaware Street, S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

Warren R. Lawson, M.D.
Secretary & Executive Officer
State Department of Health
717 Delaware Street, S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

Environmental Library of Minnesota
1222 S. E. 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Distribution

☒ Pocket File
AEC PDR
Local PDR
RP Reading
Branch Reading
JRBuchanan, ORNL
TWLaughlin, DTIE
EPA (3)
RBoyd, L: EWR
DJSkovholt, L: OR
TJCarter, L: OR
RTedesco, L: CS
ACRS (16)
RO (3)
GGitner, OGC
JGall, OGC
RVollmer, L: QA
DLZiemann, L: ORB #2
JJShea, L: ORB #2
RMDigg, L: ORB #2
NDube, L: OPS
MJinks, DRA (4)
SKari, L: RP

OFFICE ▶	L: ORB #2	L: ORB #2	L: ORB #2	L: ORB #2		
SURNAME ▶	JJShea: jh	RMDigg	DLZiemann	DJSkovholt		
DATE ▶	3/2/73	3/2/73	3/2/73	3/5/73		