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Regulatory

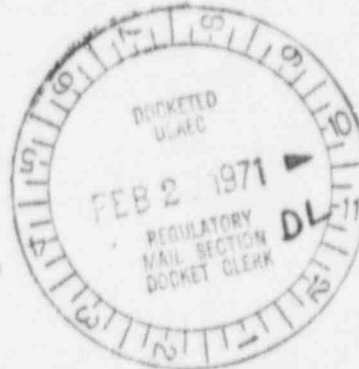
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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

February 23, 1971

Dr. Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545



Dear Dr. Morris:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT E-5979
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22
Unsuccessful Efficiency Testing of a Standby
Gas Treatment System Particulate Filter

Efficiency tests of the Standby Gas Treatment System particulate filters at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant revealed that one HEPA filter did not meet the removal efficiency requirements. We interpret this occurrence to be reportable to your office in accordance with Section 6.6.C.1 of Appendix A, Technical Specifications, of the Provisional Operating License DPR-22. The Region III Compliance Office has been previously notified of the occurrence.

Summary Description of Occurrence

On January 27, 1971, Nuclear Containment Systems, Inc. personnel performed DOP efficiency tests on the Standby Gas Treatment System (SGTS) HEPA filters. All of the SGTS filters were found to be greater than 99 percent efficient with the exception of the upstream HEPA filter, F-34B-2, for SGTS Train B which was found to be between 96 and 97 percent efficient. The downstream HEPA filter was tested at 99.92 percent efficient.

An inspection of filter F-34B-2 revealed that there were small burn holes on the upstream side of the filter. It is believed that these burn holes were caused by sparks from a cutting torch or grinding wheel which were used when the Train B air heater was modified since DOP testing prior to the modification work showed that the filter performed as required. At the time of the air heater modification work it was not recognized that this work could effect the filter system efficiency.

Two of the eight filter units of the upstream HEPA filter, F-34B-2, were replaced and, where necessary, the other filter units were patched with a silicone sealant. A retest of filter F-34B-2 on January 27, 1971 showed the filter to be 99.97 percent efficient.

Also, for your information, one of the two parallel off-gas system HEPA filters, F-3A, was found to be only 91% efficient as revealed by DOP testing

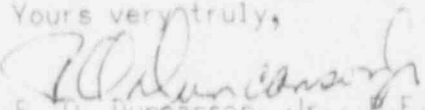
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on January 28, 1971. The second off-gas system filter, F-3B, was tested at 99.99 percent efficient. Investigation of the F-3A filter did not reveal any reason for the inefficiency (moisture damage is suspected) and subsequent retests of the filter were not successful. The F-3B filter has been valved in service for operation of the off-gas system. Prior to the initial need for the off-gas system, which began on February 19, 1971, the F-3B filter was successfully DOP tested on February 18th. Two new off-gas system cartridges, with charcoal beds included, have been ordered for immediate delivery. Following the necessary review of the planned installation of these cartridges, the cartridges will be installed and DOP and Freon efficiency tests will be performed.

An on-site Unusual Occurrence investigation of the unsuccessful DOP filter efficiency tests has been completed and a report has been written. This information will be available to the Region III Compliance Inspector for review during his next site inspection.

Yours very truly,



F. O. Duncanson, Jr., P.E.

Gen. Supt. of Power Plants-Mechanical

Chairman-Monticello Safety Audit Committee

ROD/mm