



# United States Department of the Interior

PDR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

APR 4 - 1969

Dear Mr. Price:

This will transmit the comments of the Fish and Wildlife Service on the application by the Northern States Power Company for an operating license for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1, Wright County, Minnesota, AEC Docket No. 50-263. In response to Mr. Boyd's letter of November 18, 1968, the Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the final safety analysis report, which provides information on project operation.

Commissioner Pautzke's letter of February 23, 1967, included recommendations for both pre- and post-operational radiological and ecological studies. It was also recommended that Northern States Power Company provide for modifications of plant structures and operation if results of the studies indicate their need. In May 1968, the Company commenced ecological and radiological studies of the Mississippi River habitat and resources in accordance with a program developed in a joint effort with the Minnesota Department of Conservation and the Minnesota Department of Health.

The applicant's environmental radiological program conforms to most of our previous recommendations. According to the final analysis report, however, fish will be analyzed for only gross beta but not gamma radioactivity, and invertebrates are not included on the list of materials to be analyzed. We wish to reemphasize that invertebrate animals are an important link in the food chain and should be included in any radiological study. Another omission is the failure to locate a station for water and sediment sampling within 500 feet of the reactor effluent outfall. These measures should be incorporated into the going program.

In addition, it is recommended that the applicant be urged to correlate the radiological, environmental and ecological programs. This will be an excellent opportunity to obtain important data on food chain transfer of radionuclides, identification of "biological indicators" of radioactivity, and the food habits of various species.