

FEB 9 1976

PDR

Derrell G. Eisenhut, Assistant Director for Operational Technology, DOR  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST NO. ORB-2-212

Plant Name: Monticello Nuclear Generating Station (Possible generic issue for all BWR's)  
Docket No: 50-263  
Project Manager: Richard R. Snaider (27403)  
Operational Technology Review Branch: Reactor Safety Branch  
Requested Completion Date: March 10, 1976

Description of Request: Background

By letter dated January 26, 1976, Northern States Power Company (NSP) proposed a change to the Technical Specifications for Monticello to reduce the frequency for exercising control rods from one week to one month. The licensee claims that: (1) 25,000 such tests at Monticello without a single failure justifies a reduction in frequency of these tests; (2) recent analytical studies reveal that weekly tests result in fuel damage and increased offgas releases; and (3) the probability of two or more rods being inoperable will be less than  $10^{-6}$  even at the monthly testing interval.

Request for Assistance:

Your review of the January 26, 1976 NSP submittal is requested with specific consideration given to the possible multi-faceted generic issue. Note that the licensee has treated the related collet housing cracking problem in his submittal and believes that inspections for the start of crack propagation not rod exercising provides the assurance that collet housing cracks will not become a problem. Coordination with NSP or the vendor (GE) may be necessary during your review of this issue. It is requested that you work closely with the Operating Reactors contact during your investigation. Your final report should judge the acceptability of the NSP submittal as it could apply to all BWR's.

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Subject RMDiggs

Docket

ORB #2 Reading

Enclosure:

NSP License Amendment Request  
dated January 26, 1976

Original signed by

Dennis L. Ziemann

Dennis L. Ziemann, Chief

Operating Reactors Branch #2

Division of Operating Reactors

OFFICE			OR:ORB #2	OR:ORB #2	
See next page			RSnaider:ro	DLZiemann	
SURNAME			2/9/76	2/9/76	
DATE					

cc:

R. L. Baer

V. Stello

K. R. Goller

T. J. Carter

R. P. Smider

P. M. Diggs

OFFICE ➤					
SURNAME ➤					
DATE ➤					