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Mrs. Paula Davis
Eagle Bend, Minnesota 56446

Dear Mrs. Davis:

The following are the comments of the Atomic Energy Commission's Regulatory Staff on your letter of November 2, 1970, to the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which is conducting the public hearing in regard to the proposed provisional operating license for the Northern States Power Company Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (AEC Docket No. 50-263).

Northern States Power Company has conducted a program of measurement of the meteorological characteristics of the Monticello site by use of meteorological instruments mounted on a 150 foot-high tower located at the Monticello site. In its Final Safety Analysis Report, Northern States Power Company summarized the results of this experimental program which demonstrates that the site, in terms of meteorology, is typical of the North Central United States. These data were then utilized by the Atomic Energy Commission's Regulatory Staff in evaluating the offsite radiological effects from normal operation and from postulated accidents (Safety Evaluation pages 6, 40 and 43-49, copy enclosed).

As to postulated accidents or incidents, the predicted occurrence of inversions at the Monticello site was used by the regulatory staff in evaluating offsite radiological consequences from those accidents which would result in a ground level release of radioactive materials. (The Pasquill Type F condition cited on page 48 of our Safety Evaluation represents conditions equivalent to inversion conditions). In evaluating potential offsite doses from accidents which result in the release of radioactive materials from the 328 foot-high plant stack, notably the loss-of-coolant accident, we considered an even more conservative meteorological condition than inversion (page 45 of our Safety Evaluation). In this case, we assume an inversion condition associated with a fumigation condition. These meteorological conditions

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result in the radioactive plume released from the plant stack reaching the ground closer to the site boundary, and thus would result in higher offsite doses than for the inversion condition alone. The offsite doses from these postulated accidents are well within the guideline values specified in 10 CFR Part 100 of the Commission's Regulations (copy enclosed).

As described in our Safety Evaluation, we and our consultant (Air Resources Environmental Laboratory, Environmental Science Service Administration), concluded that suitably conservative meteorological conditions, based on actual onsite meteorological measurements, were used in evaluating the effects on the environment of normal operating and postulated accidental airborne effluents from the Monticello plant.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Peter A. Morris

Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation
2. 10 CFR Part 100

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