

MAY 20 1974

File (Docket No. 50-263)

THRU: Sp. L. Ziemann, Chief, ORB #2, L

INSPECTION OF INVERTED POISON TUBES IN THE MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT (NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)

In a letter dated May 10, 1974, Northern States Power Company (NSP) transmitted the results of their eddy current inspection for inverted poison tubes and an analysis of the potential effect of B₄C compaction in the inverted tubes remaining in the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

A total of 19 inverted tubes in 15 control rods (0.19% of the total tubes in all control rods) were left inside the core. The potential shutdown margin loss assuming full B₄C settling in these 19 inverted tubes was calculated to be 0.04% Δk . NSP plans, as we have directed, to add this value to technical specification shutdown margin requirements as long as these blades remain in the core. NSP concluded, and we agree, that the potential effects of B₄C settling on the rod drop accident and pressurization transients are negligible.

We have reviewed the NSP submittal and concluded that they have adhered to the requirements specified in our letter to them dated April 1, 1974, and subsequent operation with 19 inverted poison tubes does not present any significant safety problems.

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Operating Reactors Branch #2
Directorate of Licensing

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