

DEB/DCD

January 31, 1997

Mr. E. Watzl, Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-263/96012(DRP)

Dear Mr. Watzl:

On January 8, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Monticello reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection period, your conduct of activities at the Monticello facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and careful radiological work controls. The decision to shutdown the reactor to repair the "D" safety relief valve was proactive and demonstrated a good safety perspective. Your staff conducted the shutdown in a controlled manner and repaired several existing material condition concerns.

A rapid power reduction necessitated by a loss of condenser vacuum occurred during this period. This was attributed to a failure to fully consider the effect of frigid air from open turbine building doors on nearby equipment. This issue will be further assessed during the next inspection period.

No violations or deviations from NRC requirements were identified during this inspection period.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. L. Caldwell
James Caldwell, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Public
IE-01

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 50-263/96012(DRP)

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONCURRENCES

DOCUMENT NAME: R:\INSPRPTS\POWERS\MONT\MON96012.DRP

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E. Watzl

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cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Monticello
John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA
State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota

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