

April 14, 1997

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Mr. M. D. Wadley
Vice President, Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-263/97004(DRS)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On March 14, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection of the licensed operator requalification training program at your Monticello Nuclear Generating Station. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Overall, the inspectors concluded the licensed reactor operator and senior reactor operator requalification programs were being implemented in accordance with 10 CFR Part 55 requirements. Examination material prepared by your training staff, and operator evaluations performed by both your training and operations staffs, were identified as programmatic strengths.

However, we are concerned by the operating crew performance observed during the dynamic scenarios. The performance was characterized by weak communications, poor command and control, and some lack of knowledge by individual crew members. The individual operator and crew remediation identified by your training staff was satisfactory. We will discuss this performance issue with you at a management meeting to be held at a future date.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,
/s/ Geoffrey E. Grant
Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-263/97004(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

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Examination material prepared by your training staff, and operator evaluations performed by both your training and operations staffs, were identified as programmatic strengths. However, the operations crew performance observed by NRC inspectors during dynamic scenarios was characterized by weak communications, poor command and control, and some lack of knowledge by individual crew members. Individual operator and crew remediation identified by your training staff was satisfactory.

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M. D. Wadley

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April 14, 1997

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

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