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Northern States Power Company

414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1927 Telephone (612) 330-5500

July 24, 1992

NRC Bulletin 92-01

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555

> MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

Response to NRC Bulletin 92-01, "Failure of Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier System to Maintain Cabling in Wide Cable Trays and Small Conduits Free From Fire Damage"

Attachment 1 to this letter provides our response to NRC Bulletin 92-01, "Failure of Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier System to Maintain Cabling in Wide Cable Trays and Small Conduits Free From Fire Damage". Attachment 1 also provides the information necessary to satisfy Technical Specification 3.13.G.2, which requires that a special report be submitted to the Commission when an inoperable penetration fire barrier cannot be restored to operable status within 14 days.

Please contact us if you require additional information.

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Thomas M. Parker Manager Nuclear Support Services

cc: Regional Administrator-III, NRC NRR Project Manager, NRC Resident Inspector, NRC State of Minnesota, Attn: Kris Sanda J Silberg

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PDR

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-263

Response to NRC Bulletin 92-01, "Failure of Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier System to Maintain Cabling in Wide Cable Trays and Small Conduits Free From Fire Damage"

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, hereby provides the information requested by NRC Bulletin 92-01, titled "Failure of Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier System to Maintain Cabling in Wide Cable Trays and Small Conduits Free From Fire Damage", Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f). Answers to the specific questions asked by the bulletin are provided in attachment 1 to this submittal.

This letter contains no restricted or other defense information.

NORTHERN STATES /POWER COMPANY Thomas M Parker

Manager Nuclear Support Services

On this $\frac{1992}{1}$ before me a notary public in and for said County, personally appeared Thomas M Parker, Manager Nuclear Support Services, and being first duly sworn acknowledged that he is authorized to execute this document on behalf of Northern States Power Company, that he knows the contents thereof, and that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief the statements made in it are true an that it is not interposed for delay.

MARCIA K. LaCORE NOTARY PUBLIC—MINNESOTA HENNEPIN COUNTY My Commission Expires Sept. 24, 1993

Attachment 1 Page 1

Attachment 1

Response to NRC Bulletin 92-01

Background:

On June 24, 1992, an advance copy of NRC Bulletin 92-01 "Failure of Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier System to Maintain Cabling in Wide Cable Trays and Small Conduits Free From Fire Damage" was received at Monticello. The bulletin required that each licensee submit a written response to questions concerning usage of Thermo-Lag at each facility.

Based on an evaluation of the information contained in this bulletin, one fire barrier was declared inoperable on June 24, 1992 and compensatory measures were established. Technical Specification 3.13.G.2 requires, in part, that if an inoperable penetration fire barrier cannot be restored to operable status within 14 days, a special report must be submitted to the Commission outlining the cause of the inoperability and the plans and schedule for restoring the barrier to Operable status. The barrier declared inoperable on June 24, 1992 remains inoperable at this time, therefore, the Technical Specification requirement for a special report applies.

Bulletin Response:

With respect to NRC Bulletin No. 92-01, we offer the following as our response to the third requested action:

Each licensee, within 30 days of receiving this bulletin, is required to provide a written notification stating whether it has or does not have Thermo-Lag 330 fire barrier systems installed in its facilities.

The Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant presently uses Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier Systems in one fire area. There is approximately 35 feet of one inch conduit and 35 feet of four inch conduit protected by Thermo-Lag 330.

Each licensee who has installed Thermo-Lag 330 fire barriers is required to inform the NRC, in writing, whether it has taken the above actions and is required to describe the measures being taken to ensure or restore fire barrier operability.

The barrier protecting the one inch conduit has been declared inoperable per Bulletin 92-01 and a once per hour roving fire watch covering the one affected area has been implemented per Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Technical Specification for Penetration Fire Barriers (Technical Specification 3.14.G.2). If the detection system in this area becomes inoperable a continuous fire watch will be implemented per the same Technical Specification.

Attachment 1 Page 2

Our plan to restore the one inch conduit barrier to operable status is composed of two parallel efforts. First, a Design Change has been initiated to replace the inoperable fire barrier system. Second, actions to restore fire barrier operability are being developed through an industry program being coordinated by NUMARC. This program will include establishment of a test database, development of guidance for applicability of tests, development of generic installation guidance, and consideration of additional testing as appropriate.

We will apply the results of one of these efforts, as appropriate, to the inoperable one inch conduit fire barrier. The barrier protecting the larger four inch conduit is considered operable based on the information provided in the Bulletin; therefore, no action is planned concerning this barrier.

Additional Information:

With respect to Technical Specification 3.14.G.2, the following additional information is provided:

Cause of Inoperability:

The fire barrier was declared inoperable as a result of the information provided in NRC Bulletin No. 92-01 concerning the failure of Thermo-Lag 330 fire barrier systems during endurance testing.

Plans and Schedule for Restoring Barrier to Operable Status:

Our plans for restoring the inoperable fire barrier are discussed in the bulletin response above. The barrier will be restored to operability by March 31, 1993.