

November 1, 2000

Mr. M. Hammer  
Site General Manager  
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
2807 West County Road 75  
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR WITH EXPIRED LICENSE; NON-CITED VIOLATION; AND INSPECTION REPORT 50-263/2000018(DRS)

Dear Mr. Hammer:

In September 2000, your staff submitted a request to remove a "no solo" restriction on a senior reactor operator's operating license at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Station. While evaluating the request, NRC Region III personnel identified that the operator's license had expired on August 14, 1999. After follow-up telephone calls with your staff, we determined that the operator had been directing the operation of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Station controls as a senior reactor operator for approximately 13 months (August 1999 - September 2000) without a valid senior reactor operator's license, which was a violation of 10 CFR 55.3, "License Requirements." Specifically, 10 CFR 55.3 requires that a person must be authorized by a license issued by the Commission to perform the functions of a reactor operator or a senior reactor operator as defined in 10 CFR 55. Senior reactor operator is defined as any individual licensed under 10 CFR 55 to manipulate the controls of a facility and to direct the licensed activities of licensed operators.

This violation was discussed with members of your staff during a telephone conference call on September 29, 2000. We recognize that the individual was current in requalification training; therefore, actual safety of the plant and public was not jeopardized. However, an NRC license carries important responsibilities including the need for both the facility and the licensed individuals to remain cognizant of the expiration dates of senior reactor operator and reactor operator licenses. The issue was determined not to be programmatic and to be of very low risk significance and your staff has addressed the issue as part of your corrective action program (Condition Report 2000-3665); therefore, the NRC is treating the issue as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV) in accordance with Section VI.A.1 of the NRC's Enforcement Policy. If you contest the Non-Cited Violation, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this letter, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the *Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS)*. *ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>* (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

The above report number is assigned to this letter for NRC tracking purposes only and a separate inspection report was not generated. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this letter or the associated Non-Cited Violation, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Hills, Chief, Operations Branch at (630) 829-9733 or me at (630) 829-9700.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: Site General Manager, Monticello  
Plant Manager, Monticello  
J. Malcolm, Commissioner, Minnesota  
Department of Health  
M. Wadley, Chief Nuclear Officer  
S. Northard, Nuclear Asset Manager  
M. Roth, Site Licensing Manager  
J. Malcolm, Commissioner, Minnesota  
Department of Health  
J. Silberg, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge  
R. Nelson, President  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
D. Gruber, Auditor/Treasurer  
Wright County Government Center  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce  
A. Neblett, Assistant Attorney General

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John A. Grobe, Director  
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NAME	BBerson		JGrobe					

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