

Champion, Inc., Contractor At Nuclear Power Plant

Champion, Inc., of Iron Mountain, has constructed a concrete batch plant and is the contractor for its operation during the construction period of the huge nuclear power plant being built by Northern States Power Co. at Monticello, Minnesota.

Champion, Inc., built the facility during the winter at the construction site.

Thousands and thousands of cubic yards of concrete that will go into the big nuclear power plant will come out of the Champion batch plant. The plant can produce 100 to 200

cubic yards of concrete per hour, mixing a four yard batch in less than five minutes.

Aggregate which was hauled through Monticello for days on end early this year is stockpiled behind the plant. Cement will be trucked in and loaded into a large steel storage container vessel and then moved by air into the conveyor.

Champion, Inc., will employ about four or five drivers of trucks when in full operation, in addition to another four or five men in the plant itself.

Completion Due In 1970

Excavations for the 545,000 kilowatt power plant were completed last fall. Other activities at the Monticello site, in addition to the construction of the concrete mixing plant by Champion, Inc., included the boring of foundation piers, and four large "deadheads" — concrete anchor blocks to which guy cables will secure the tall crane to be erected.

Pouring of the concrete for the retaining wall between the two large buildings — one housing the reactor, the other the turbine — will signal the start of the construction of the turbine building. The plant is scheduled to be in service in May, 1970.

Peak employment should be reached in the summer of 1968, when an anticipated 400 men will be working on the plant.

General Electric Co. is the contractor to Northern States Power Co. for the Monticello plant. Bechtel Corp., of San Francisco, Calif., is the engineering contractor, and Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. will construct the reactor vessel and containment, both being under subcontract to General Electric.