

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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No. 96-123

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, September 17, 1996)

NRC CONSIDERS APPLICATION FOR OFF-SITE
SPENT FUEL STORAGE LICENSE FOR MINNESOTA NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reviewing an application from Northern States Power Company (NSP) for a license to store nuclear power plant spent fuel in a facility that NSP proposes to construct and operate in Goodhue County, Minnesota. The agency is offering an opportunity for a public hearing on the license application.

The proposed facility would store uranium fuel that has been irradiated in the process of producing electricity at the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant in nearby Welch, Minnesota.

The NRC previously licensed NSP to store up to 48 dry casks containing spent fuel on-site at the Prairie Island plant. However, a Minnesota law requires NSP to develop an off-site facility for fuel storage.

The NRC will review NSP's application to determine whether storage of the spent fuel in the proposed off-site independent spent fuel storage installation in Florence Township of Goodhue County will provide reasonable protection of public health and safety and the common defense and security. In the course of this review, the agency will prepare an environmental impact statement.

Any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding may file a written request for a hearing and a petition to intervene. The petition should explain in detail how the petitioner's interest would be affected and identify the specific aspects on which the petitioner wishes to intervene. NSP may also file a request for a hearing.

Specific requirements for petitioning are described in a Federal Register notice published on September 17. The request must be filed by October 17 (30 days after the Federal Register notice) with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing

and Services Branch. Further details on filing requirements and options are contained in the Federal Register notice.

If timely requests are received, an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will be designated to rule on them and to conduct a hearing, if one is held.

Copies of the application for a license and related materials are available for review in a temporary local public document room that has been recently established in the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, Minnesota. In addition, the same documents are available for review and copying at the existing local public document room for the Prairie Island nuclear power plant located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, and at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

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