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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-282 AND 50-306

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DRP-24 and DPR-60, issued to Northern States Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit Nos. 1 and 2 located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

The amendments would permit a change of the sodium hydroxide concentration in the spray additive tank of the containment spray system from the existing 30% by weight to a range of 9% to 11% byweight, inclusive. In addition, the amendments would permit the concentration to be out of specification limits for a period not to exceed 72 hours at which time the licensee would have to initiate shutdown procedures. These revisions to the technical specifications would be made in response to the licensee's application for amendment dated June 10, 1983.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's

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accordance with the proposed amendments would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The licensee's analysis, under various accident scenarios, shows that the electrical equipment inside containment could be subjected to an environment having a pH of 13 during the injection phase under the existing requirements permitted by the technical specification. This exceeds a pH of 10.5, the environmental pH limit to which the electrical equipment inside the containment is qualified. Reducing the sodium hydroxide concentration assures that an acceptable environmental pH limit for the electrical equipment inside containment will not exceed a pH of 10.5 at any time. The proposed change is consistent with the Final Safety Analysis Report for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit Nos. 1 and 2. The proposed change is consistent with the guidelines of the Standard Review Plan with the following exception. To be sure that iodine remains hydrolized in the event of a large break LOCA, the Standard Review Plan requires a minimum sump pH of 8.5. The licensee's analysis indicates, under normal tank levels, that the proposed solution concentration would result in a sump pH of 8.4 and only under worst case conditions could a pH of 8.2 exist. However, since elemental iodine is nearly completely hydrolized at pH levels of 8.0 and above, the staff has concluded that a pH of 8.2 at the sump will not likely result in a significant reduction in the margin of safety. The proposed amendments would also allow the licensee 72 hours to correct the concentration when found outside the technical specification limits before requiring a plant shutdown. Such an allowance

is consistent with standard practice for such a technical specification limit in.....

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order to permit the licensee a reasonable time period to take the corrective actions necessary to achieve an acceptable concentration before requiring a plant shutdown. Therefore, based on these considerations, the Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination. The Commission will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Comments should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch.

By AUG 15 1983 , the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendments to the subject facility operating licenses and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene. Request for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

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As required by 10 CFR §2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendments under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to

at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

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Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendments and make them effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendments.

If the final determination is that the amendments involve a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendments.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendments until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendments before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

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A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at (800) 325-6000 (in Missouri (800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to Robert A. Clark: . petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Executive Legal Director, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Gerald Charnoff, Esq., Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 1800 M Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board designated to rule on the petition and/or request, that the petitioner has made a substantial showing of good cause for the granting of a late petition and/or request. That determination will be based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

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For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Environmental Conservation Library, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 8th day of July, 1983.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by
Robert A. Clark

Robert A. Clark, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Licensing

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concur, subject to comments noted
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Northern States Power Company

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