

February 3, 1997

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Licensing and Management Issues
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING - PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING
PLANT, UNIT 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M97816 AND M97817)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Enclosed is a copy of the subject notice that relates to Northern States Power
Company's application for amendments for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant, Units 1 and 2 dated January 29, 1997.

The proposed amendments would change the design basis of the cooling water
system emergency intake line flow capacity.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by
Beth A. Wetzel, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282
and 50-306

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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NAME	BWetzel:sp <i>BW</i>	CJamerson <i>esp 200</i>	JHannon <i>JH</i>
DATE	2/3/97	2/3/97	2/3/97

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
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Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth A. Wetzel".

Beth A. Wetzel, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282
and 50-306

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant

cc:

J. E. Silberg, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N. W.
Washington DC 20037

Tribal Council
Prairie Island Indian Community
ATTN: Environmental Department
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Plant Manager
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant
Northern States Power Company
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Adonis A. Neblett
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
455 Minnesota Street
Suite 900
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2127

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
1719 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089-9642

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Mr. Jeff Cole, Auditor/Treasurer
Goodhue County Courthouse
Box 408
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066-0408

Kris Sanda, Commissioner
Department of Public Service
121 Seventh Place East
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2145

Site Licensing
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant
Northern States Power Company
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

November 1996

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-282 AND 50-306NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-42 and DPR-60 issued to Northern States Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

The proposed amendments would change the Bases for the technical specifications and the licensing basis for the operating licenses relating to the cooling water system emergency intake line flow capacity. The licensee determined through testing that the emergency intake line flow capacity was less than the design value stated in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (USAR). The proposed changes reflect the use of operator actions to control cooling water system flow following a seismic event. The proposed changes also reclassify the intake canal for use during a seismic event, which would be an additional source of cooling water during a seismic event.

In its letter dated January 29, 1997, the licensee requested that this amendment be reviewed under exigent circumstances. Prairie Island Unit 2 shut down for refueling on January 25, 1997, and is scheduled to restart on March 5, 1997. Without review and approval of this license amendment request

by the end of the Unit 2 outage, Prairie Island would be prevented from resumption of plant operation.

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

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC staff must determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment 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. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. The proposed amendment will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Probability

The accident of concern for this issue is a seismic event. None of the proposed changes can have any effect on the probability of a seismic event.

Consequences

- (1) The intake canal has been evaluated for stability during a postulated seismic event. The results of the evaluation demonstrates that the banks of the canal will not liquefy or lose strength during the event. Therefore, taking credit for the intake canal stability does not increase the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

- (2) The use of operator action for systems important to safety to perform properly has been evaluated. There are adequate indications to allow the operator to recognize the occurrence of the event. A procedure provides guidance to the operator for reducing cooling water system demand. This procedure is available in the control room and all actions are accomplished in the control room. Adequate time is available for the operator to perform the tasks and to get feedback on the actions' success or failure. The operators have been trained on the use of the procedure and continuing training is planned. Therefore, the use of operator action does not significantly increase the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.
- (3) The potential for operator acts of omission or commission while reducing cooling water system demand has been evaluated.

An operator act of omission while initially performing the procedure to reduce cooling water flow could result in cooling water system demand exceeding the emergency intake line capacity. However, due to the long time period within which the procedure must be implemented, control room management oversight and control room indications and alarms, it is unlikely that this condition would not be corrected.

Three types of operator acts of commission while performing the procedure to reduce cooling water flow were considered. (1) Acts which could increase flow and damage the cooling water pumps are not credible since the cooling water system flow is assumed to be near its maximum due to loss of the instrument air and non-safeguards power when the earthquake occurs. (2) Acts which would reduce flow to systems required for safe shutdown of the plant were evaluated. These acts would be indicated by control room alarms and corrected or out-plant actions would be required which involves more than a simple act of commission, thus, loss of function of supported systems due to loss of cooling water flow is not considered credible. (3) Acts which isolate a cooling water pump incorrectly were considered. This is a long term wear issue, but not a pump failure issue.

Operator acts of omission or commission have also been evaluated probabilistically. This evaluation demonstrated that the probability of an act of omission or commission is comparable to or less than other operator evolutions which have previously been licensed for effective performance of systems important to safety. This compliments the conclusions from the deterministic evaluation that these changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability of a previously evaluated accident.

Therefore, the potential of an operator act of omission or commission does not significantly increase the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed amendment will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously analyzed.

The Cooling Water System is provided in the plant to mitigate accidents and it is not a design basis accident initiator, thus these proposed changes do not increase the possibility of a new or different kind of accident.

The consideration of operator acts of omission or commission is limited to those acts arising from performance of the cooling water load management procedure. The evaluation of these actions showed that a new or different type of accident is not created.

In total, the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated would not be created by these changes to the plant licensing basis or amendments to the Cooling Water Technical Specifications.

3. The proposed amendment will not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The proposed changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety because the current Technical Specifications requirements for safe operation of the Prairie Island plant are maintained or increased. Plant margin of safety may be reduced by the reduced flow capacity of the emergency intake line. However, plant margin is restored by the remedial operator actions which preserve safe plant operation. Analysis shows that the intake canal will not fail during a seismic event and thus sufficient time for reducing cooling water system demand is provided. The procedure for reducing cooling water demand has been demonstrated on the plant simulator and operators have been trained. This procedure can be performed entirely from the control room. Thus, the changes proposed in this license amendment request do not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety. Additionally, probabilistic evaluation compliments the conclusion that the likelihood for successful reduction of the cooling water system flow is very high.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 15 days after the date of

publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination. Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 15-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 amendment before the expiration of the 15-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By March 10, 1997, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility

operating license 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 request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition 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. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota. 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.

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 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 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. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing.

The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. 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.

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 the amendment is issued before the expiration of the 30-day hearing period, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, 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 amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

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

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, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 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 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to John N. Hannon, Director, Project Directorate III-1: 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

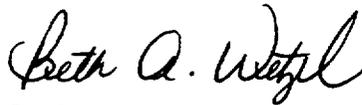
should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Jay Silberg, Esq., Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, attorney for the licensee.

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 presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated January 29, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room, located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of February 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Beth A. Wetzel, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects -III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

February 3, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Rules Review and Directives Branch
 Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services
 Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING
 LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION & OPPORTUNITY FOR
 HEARING-PI NUCLEAR GENERATING RP, UNITS 1&2 (TAC NOS. M97816/~~M97817~~ M97817)

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is attached for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (5) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s): Time for submission of Views on Antitrust matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License. (Call with 30-day insert date).
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- Order.
- Exemption.
- Notice of Granting Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Issuance of Final Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Other: Please call Shirley on 415-1340 or Beth Wetzel on 415-1355 with a 30 day date.

DOCKET NO. 50-282 and 50-306

Attachment(s): As stated

Contact: Beth Wetzel
 Telephone: 415-1355

DOCUMENT NAME: G:WPDOCS\ PRAIRIE\PI97816.EXI

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