

From: Chad Glenn
To: Joy_gober@fws.gov
Date: 4/11/05 5:05PM
Subject: Confirmation of No Foreseeable Significant Effect on Threatened or Endangered Species

Ms. Gober,

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering Xcel Energy's license amendment request to obtain authorization to decommission the Pathfinder facility in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The proposed decommissioning activities are relatively simple and pose very low risk to the public health and the environment. The largest portion of radioactive material at the site was removed by previous remediation activities in 1992. The proposed decommissioning activities are remediation, shipment of low level radioactive waste, and final status surveys. The focus of the proposed decommissioning activity is the remediation of residual radioactivity within the Turbine and Boiler Buildings. After remediation, these buildings will be used for other ongoing non-nuclear operations at the site.

The Xcel Energy Pathfinder Facility is situated in Minnehaha County (Latitude: 43 degrees 36' 11" N, and Longitude: 96 degrees 38' 14" W) and located at 7100 East Rice Street in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The facility is approximately six miles northeast of the Sioux Falls city center and 2 miles east of the town of Brandon. The current and projected land use in the vicinity of the site is primarily agricultural with some industrial and urban components.

On January 14, 1993, Northern States Power Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy, issued a "Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for a Proposed Combustion Turbine Generator Facility Northern States Power Company Pathfinder Site Minnehaha County, South Dakota." I'm faxing you a couple maps and **Section 2.4.9 Threatened and Endangered Species** from the FEIS. Xcel Energy's decommissioning plan for the planned remediation of the Turbine and Boiler buildings refers to the threatened and endangered species listing used for the FEIS since these buildings are located at the same site.

Xcel Energy states that the proposed remediation will be confined to areas within the Turbine and Boiler Buildings and no building demolition or outside excavation is planned. Xcel Energy concludes that these activities will have no significant effect on the habitats of threatened and endangered species. I would like to obtain confirmation that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service sees no significant effect on the habitats of threatened and endangered species from the proposed decommissioning activities. I would appreciate an e-mail response by April 29, 2005. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me.

Thanks for your help,

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