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

April 15, 2005

APR 2005
South Dakota SHPO

Paige Hoskinson
South Dakota State Historical Society
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Minnehaha
05041300 7F - Preliminary

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REGARDING PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING OF XCEL ENERGY'S PATHFINDER FACILITY IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Dear Ms. Hoskinson:

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. Xcel Energy has submitted a decommissioning plan for NRC review and approval. 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 cleanup of residual radioactivity within the Turbine and Boiler Buildings. This decommissioning activity does not involve outside excavation or building demolition. After cleanup, these buildings will be used for other 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 (see enclosed map). The current land use in the vicinity of the site is primarily agricultural with some industrial and urban components.

Xcel Energy's DP states that these decommissioning activities will not adversely affect any cultural resources or historic sites and there will be no impacts or changes to the aesthetics or visual appearance of the site. Based on the NRC staff's review of Xcel Energy's DP, we foresee no adverse impacts to historic property from the proposed decommissioning activities.

I would appreciate a response indicating that the State Historical Society has no objection to the NRC staff's determination that the proposed decommissioning activities will have no foreseeable affect to historic property.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me by phone at 301-415-6722, or e-mail at CJG1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Chad Glenn

Chad Glenn, Senior Project Manager
Materials Decommissioning Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-05004
License No. 22-08799-02

Enclosure:
Map of Pathfinder site

SECTION 106 DETERMINATION
Based upon the information provided to the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office on 4/18/05, we concur with your agency's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this undertaking.

Jay D. Vogt
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

By: P. Hoffman

4/19/05 DS04130057F
Date SHPO Project #

SECTION 106 CONSULTATION
Concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office does not relieve the federal agency official from consulting with other appropriate parties, as described in 36 CFR Part 800.2(c).

SECTION 106 CONSULTATION
If ground disturbance related to this project results in the discovery of any bones, artifacts, foundations, or other indications of past human occupation of the area, the project should be temporarily stopped and the State Historic Preservation Officer notified immediately. Should this project change substantially (i.e., new locations of impacts) from that presented in your report, our office would like the opportunity to review those changes.

South Dakota
Department of Tourism and State Development
South Dakota State Historical Society
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2217

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