

May 27, 2005

Charles R. Bomberger  
General Manager, Nuclear Asset Manager  
Northern States Power Company  
Dba Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

SUBJECT: LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 15

Dear Mr. Bomberger:

I am responding to your February 17, 2004, letter requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approve Xcel Energy's decommissioning plan (DP) for the Pathfinder site and amend its byproduct materials license to authorize decommissioning activities. The NRC staff has evaluated Xcel Energy's request and completed an environmental assessment (EA) (See ADAMS ML050960256) to support the review of Xcel Energy's DP and license amendment request, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. On May 25, 2005, the EA was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 30150). Based on the staff evaluation, the conclusion of the EA is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on human health and the environment for the proposed licensing action. A Safety Evaluation Report was also prepared for this licensing action and is included as an attachment.

Enclosed is License No. 22-08799-02, Amendment No. 15, authorizing the decommissioning of the Pathfinder site. The authorized use condition under this license is changed to read:

9. Authorized use:

For Possession Only, incident to license termination. Decommissioning activities in accordance with the Pathfinder Decommissioning Plan submitted by letter dated February 17, 2004 and supplemented by letter dated December 21, 2004.

No other use of radioactive materials is authorized under the current license amendment. License condition 13 is changed as follows: 13 B. Replaced with letter dated February 21, 2003; 13 C. Replaced with application dated June 16, 2003; 13 D. Added letter dated October 15, 2003; and 13 E. Added letter dated February 17, 2004, and supplemented by letter dated December 21, 2004. All other license conditions shall remain the same.

Northern States Power Company

-2-

If you have any question, please contact me at 301-415-7295, or Chad Glenn of my staff at 301-415-6722.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Kimberly A. Gruss, Acting Deputy Director  
Decommissioning Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-05004

License No.: 22-08799-02

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 15 to License 22-08799-02  
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc: Pathfinder Distribution List

Northern States Power Company

-2-

May 27, 2005

If you have any question, please contact me at 301-415-7295, or Chad Glenn of my staff at 301-415-6722.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Kimberly A. Gruss, Acting Deputy Director  
Decommissioning Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-05004

License No.: 22-08799-02

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 15 to License 22-08799-02  
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc: Pathfinder Distribution List

**DISTRIBUTION:**

DCD r/f      DWMEP r/f      D.Gillen      A.Turner      J.Peckenpaugh  
B.Watson      T.Fredrichs      B.Smith (OGC)      B.Evans, RIV      B.Spitzberg, RIV

**ML051430440**

OFFICE	DWMEP:PM	DWMEP	DWMEP:D	
NAME	C.Glenn	C.Burkhalter	K.Gruss	
DATE	5/26/05	5/27/05	5/27/05	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Pathfinder Service List

cc:

Mayor Dave Munson  
Mayor of Sioux Falls  
1009 N Sycamore Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Mayor Larry Beesley  
Mayor of Brandon  
PO Box 261  
Brandon, SD 57005

Pam Holman, Superintendent  
Sioux Falls School District  
25765 479<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brandon, SD 57005

George Gulson, Superintendent  
Brandon School District  
301 S Splitrock Blvd  
Brandon, SD 57005

Vernon Brown  
City Council  
224 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Bob Jamison  
City Council  
224 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Kermit Staggers  
City Council  
224 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Gerald Beninga  
City Council  
224 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Darrin Smith  
City Council  
224 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Kevin Kavanaugh  
City Council  
224 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Andy Howes  
City Council  
224 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Jim Zweep  
County Commissioner  
3244 Grace Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Carol Twedt  
County Commissioner  
4302 S Minnesota Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Anne Hajeck  
County Commissioner  
2201 S Main Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Robert Kolbe  
County Commissioner  
636 W 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls SD 57105

John Pekas  
County Commissioner  
115 S Main Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Steve Pirner, South Dakota Secretary  
Dept of Environment & Natural  
Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Pam Bonrud, Executive Director  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Jim Burg, Commissioner  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Gary Hanson, Commissioner  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Bob Sahr, Commissioner  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dan Scott, President  
Sioux Falls Development Foundation  
PO Box 907  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0907

Dan Hindbjorgen, VP  
Sioux Falls Development Foundation  
PO Box 907  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0907

Bob Miller, Executive Director  
PO Box 247  
Pierre, SD 57501-0247

Nettie Myers, President  
SD Electric Utility Companies Utility  
Shareholders of South Dakota  
212 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Rick Lancaster  
Environmental Project Scientist,  
Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources  
Ground Water Quality Program  
Joe Foss Building  
523 East Capitol Street  
Pierre SD 57501-3182

Robert J. Stahl  
Medical Facilities Engineer Supervisor  
Office of Health Care Facilities  
Licensure & Certification  
South Dakota Department of Health  
615 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pierre, SD 57501-1434

Joel E. Beres, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Utility Engineering  
901 Marquette Avenue, Suite 2900  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Charles Bomberger  
General Manager  
Nuclear Asset Management  
414 Nicollet Mall (Ren. Sq. 8)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Paige Hoskinson  
Review and Compliance Coordinator  
South Dakota State Historical Society  
900 Governors Drive  
Pierre SD 57501

Joy Gober  
Biologist  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
420 S. Garfield Ave., Suite 400  
Pierre, SD 57501