May 27, 2005

The Honorable Ken W. Davis
Chairperson
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council
PO Box 900
Belcourt, ND 58316

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT APPLICATION FOR OPERATING LICENSE RENEWAL (TAC NO. MC6441)

Dear Chairperson Davis:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) to renew the operating license for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (Monticello), located in the city of Monticello, Wright County, Minnesota. Monticello is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51.28(b) (10 CFR 51.28(b)), the NRC invites the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for Monticello will expire on September 8, 2010. NMC submitted its application for renewal of the Monticello operating license on March 24, 2005.

The NRC is gathering information for a Monticello site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the Monticello site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the Monticello license renewal supplement to the GEIS on June 30, 2005, at the Monticello Community Center, 505 Walnut Street, Monticello, Minnesota 55362. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The application is electronically available for inspection from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML050880245. ADAMS is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room link. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 1-301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/monticello.html.

A paper copy of the application can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852-2738 and the Monticello Public Library, 220 West 6th Street, Monticello, Minnesota, 55362. The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any written comments that the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by August 2, 2005. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will mail a copy to you.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date February 2006), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for Monticello is planned for September 2006. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Ms. Jennifer Davis, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3835 or by e-mail at jxd10@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RA/
Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Programs
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-263

cc: See next page

The application is electronically available for inspection from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML050880245. ADAMS is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room link. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 1-301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/monticello.html.

A paper copy of the application can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852-2738 and the Monticello Public Library, 220 West 6th Street, Monticello, Minnesota, 55362. The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any written comments that the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by August 2, 2005. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will mail a copy to you.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date February 2006), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for Monticello is planned for September 2006. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Ms. Jennifer Davis, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3835 or by e-mail at jxd10@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RA/
Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Programs
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-263

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: See next page

Adams Accession No.: **ML051520418**

Document Name: E:\Filenet\ML051520418.wpd

OFFICE	LA:RLEP	GE:RLEP	PM:RLEP	SC:RLEP	PD:RLEP
NAME	E Hylton	J. Flemming	Jdavis (SFI for)	AKugler	PTKuo
DATE	5/23 /05	5/24 /05	5/27/05	5/27/05	5/27/05

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DISTRIBUTION: Honorable Ken W. Davis, Chairperson, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council. Re: Monticello, Dated: May 27, 2005

Adams accession no.: **ML051520418**

D. Matthews/F. Gillespie	L. M. Padovan
P.T. Kuo	Jan Strasma, OPA
A. Kugler	A. Stone, RIII
J. Davis	B. Burgess, RIII
S. Imboden	J. Adams, RIII
J. Flemming	R. Orlikowski, RIII
D. Merzke	P. Lougheed, RIII
N. Dudley	RLEP R/F
A. Hodgdon, OGC	C. Quinly (LLNL)
M. Thorpe-Kavanaugh	R. Schaaf

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

cc:
Jonathan Rogoff, Esquire
Vice President, Counsel & Secretary
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
2807 W. County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362

Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

Robert Nelson, President
Minnesota Environmental Control
Citizens Association (MECCA)
1051 South McKnight Road
St. Paul, MN 55119

Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

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

Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
717 Delaware Street, S. E.
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Douglas M. Gruber, Auditor/Treasurer
Wright County Government Center
10 NW Second Street
Buffalo, MN 55313

Margo Askin, Head Librarian
Monticello Public Library
200 W. 6th Street
Monticello, MN 55362

Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Manager - Environmental Protection
Division
Minnesota Attorney General's Office
445 Minnesota St., Suite 900
St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

John Paul Cowan
Executive Vice President & Chief Nuclear
Officer
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

Nuclear Asset Manager
Xcel Energy, Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall, R.S. 8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mr. Fred Emerson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Patrick Burke
License Renewal Project Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

Mr. Douglas F. Johnson
Director, Plant Life Cycle Issues
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

Amy Wittmann
Branch Librarian
Buffalo Public Library
18 Northwest Lake Boulevard
Buffalo, MN 55313