

January 20, 2006

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. 16

Dear Mr. Bomberger:

I am responding to your December 14, 2005, letter (ML060130285) requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approve Xcel Energy's request to amend Materials License 22-08799-02 to change the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for the Pathfinder site. Your letter states that Herbert Giorgio, the RSO presently identified on the license, will be transferred to a new company, necessitating a change to the license.

Your letter also states that Xcel Energy has qualified personnel available to fill the RSO position, due to its ownership of two operating nuclear plants, however these resources are sometimes required to support other external projects. Therefore, instead of designating a RSO individually, Xcel Energy requests that the license be amended to include the qualifications that the RSO must meet. Specifically, Xcel Energy proposes changes to License Condition 11 and 12, as indicated below:

Condition 11.

License material shall only be possessed under the supervision of the RSO.

Condition 12.

A. The RSO shall meet the education, training, and experience criteria specified by NUREG-1757, Vol. 1, Section 17.2.3.1 and be designated by the licensee in writing.

B. The licensee, without prior NRC approval, may appoint a RSO provided: i) the licensee maintains documentation demonstrating that the requirements of Condition 12A, above, are met, and ii) the NRC is informed of the new RSO, by letter to the Regional Administrator, Region IV, within 30 days of the appointment.

NRC staff has reviewed the proposed changes to License Condition 11 and 12, and has concluded that they are acceptable. In addition, NRC staff has determined that this action is administrative in nature and does not significantly alter the previously evaluated environmental impacts associated with the licensed operation and does not affect the scope and nature of the licensed activity. Therefore, in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51.22(c)(11), this action is categorically excluded and an environmental assessment for this action is not required. Enclosed is License No. 22-08799-02, Amendment No. 16.

If you have any question regarding this matter, please contact Chad Glenn, of my staff, at 301-415-6722 or by e-mail at cjg1@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.390 of the NRC "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publically Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel M. Gillen, 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

Enclosure: Materials License No. 22-08799-02, Amendment No. 16

cc: Attached List

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel M. Gillen, 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

Enclosure: Materials License No. 22-08799-02, Amendment No. 16

cc: Attached List

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