

February 10, 2006

Dr. Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL
REVIEW (TAC NO. MC6441) (SHPO NO. 2004-2193)

Dear Dr. Archabal:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (Monticello), which is located in Wright County, Minnesota, on the southern bank of the Mississippi River. Monticello is operated by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), and owned by Northern States Power Company, a wholly owned utility operating subsidiary of Xcel Energy, Inc. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437. The SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources for the extended period of operation. In accordance with our letter to you dated June 2, 2005, a copy of the draft supplement is enclosed. Pursuant to Title 36 *Code of the Federal Regulations* Part 800.8 (36 CFR 800.8), we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic properties.

As stated in our June 2, 2005, letter the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs, which may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The staff views the APE for the Monticello license renewal as including the Monticello site and the immediate environs.

The NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site and has reviewed historic and archaeological records. The NRC staff also contacted twenty-four Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. To date, no comments have been received.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on historical and archaeological resources is SMALL and additional mitigation is not warranted. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that there will be no historic properties affected for the proposed action.

N. Archabal

-2-

Please note that the period for public comment expires on May 4, 2006. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Jennifer A. Davis, at 301-415-3835 or via e-mail at JXD10@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/o encl.: See next page

N. Archabal

-2-

Please note that the period for public comment expires on May 4, 2006. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Jennifer A. Davis, at 301-415-3835 or via e-mail at JXD10@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RA/
Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/o encl.: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

F. Gillespie/P.T. Kuo (RidsNrrDir)
R. Franovich, (RidsNrrDirRebb)
A. Kugler (RidsNrrDirReba)
J. Davis
J. Flemming
S. Imboden
D. Merzke
P. Tam
B. Burgess, Rgn III
C. Thomas, Rgn III
R. Orlikowski, Rgn III
C. Quinly (quinly2@lnl.gov)
RidsOGCMailRoom
DLR/REBB

Adams Accession Nos.

1. Letter to N. Archabal w/Svc. List: ML060440138
2. NUREG-1437, GEIS for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Suppl. 26, Re: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Draft Report for Comment: ML060190072
3. Pkg: ML060440216

Document Name:E:\Filenet\ML060440138.wpd

OFFICE	RLRA:DLR:LA:	REBB:DLR:GS	REBB:DLR:PM	REBB:DLR:BC
NAME	Y. Edmonds	E. Keto	J. Davis	R. Franovich (w/comments)
DATE	2/9/06	2/10/06	2/10/06	2/10/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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

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. James Ross
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

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

-2-

cc:

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

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

David R. Lewis
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1122