

March 31, 2006

Charles R. Bomberger  
General Manager, Nuclear Asset Management  
Northern States Power Company  
dba Xcel Energy  
414 Nicollet Mall (Ren. Sq. 8)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING AND LICENSE TERMINATION SCHEDULE FOR  
PATHFINDER FACILITY

Dear Mr. Bomberger:

I am writing to request confirmation of Xcel Energy's schedule for decommissioning and terminating License No.: 22-08799-02 for the Pathfinder facility located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As you know, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved Xcel Energy's revised decommissioning plan (DP) and amended its license on May 27, 2005, to authorize decommissioning in accordance with the approved DP. Xcel Energy's revised DP includes a decommissioning schedule in Figure 3-1 with milestones forecasting the completion of remediation, final status survey report, and the submittal of a request for license termination by August 2006. The schedule also projects the completion of license termination by December 2006, in advance of the April 30, 2007, compliance requirement consistent with 10 CFR 30.36 (h)(1).

Based on recent discussions with your staff, it is our understanding that Xcel Energy is presently in the process of evaluating contractor proposals for the completion of this decommissioning work. We also understand that this effort may result in some delay in the start of remediation activities at the site. NRC remains committed to conducting its regulatory reviews and inspection activities in conjunction with Xcel Energy's planned and authorized decommissioning activities so it is essential that we are informed of any changes in your decommissioning schedule. Therefore, I am requesting that Xcel Energy confirm its intent to complete decommissioning in accordance with the schedule in your approved DP, or submit an alternate schedule for NRC review and approval within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter. Any revision to the schedule's April 30, 2007, LTR-required end date may be subject to license amendment.

C. Bomberger

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Chad Glenn, of my staff, at (301) 415-6722, or by e-mail at [cjg1@nrc.gov](mailto:cjg1@nrc.gov).

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

C. Bomberger

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Sincerely,

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Daniel M. Gillen, Deputy Director  
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Docket No.: 030-05004  
License No.: 22-08799-02

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