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**To:** <MonticelloEIS@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, May 2, 2006 4:26 PM  
**Subject:** Monticello Nuclear Plant EIS comments ER 06/73 (Virus checked)

2/2/06  
71 FR 5694  
③

Please accept the DOI's attached comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS for the Monticello Nuclear Plant.

If there are any questions please contact this office at (215) 597-5378.

**CC:** <Michael\_Chezik@ios.doi.gov>, <Lyn\_MacLean@fws.gov>

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Custom House, Room 244  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-2904



May 2, 2006

ER 06/73

Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop T6-D59  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, NUREG-1437, Draft Supplement 26 (dated January 2006), regarding the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Wright County, Minnesota.

The license renewal for Monticello Nuclear generating Plant does not involve any major construction or physical alteration of the project area. The Generic EIS and Draft Supplement 26 adequately address the concerns of the Department regarding fish and wildlife resources, as well as species protected by the Endangered Species Act. We concur with the preliminary conclusions of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff with respect to the impacts of continued operations on these resources.

In a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) dated December 22, 2005, the NRC transmitted a Biological Assessment on the proposed license renewal for the Monticello Plant with a determination that the renewal for an additional 20 years is not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle at the Monticello site or along the associated transmission lines. The Service has indicated that it concurs with the determination and will be providing an official concurrence directly to the NRC.

Correction needed in Final EIS: On page 2-22, line 16, the statement that "To date, populations of the zebra mussel within the Mississippi River have not been found above the Twin Cities area (St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam)(MNDNR 2005)" is no longer correct. On Oct. 19, 2005, the MNDNR issued a news release confirming the presence of zebra mussels within Rice Lake, an impoundment within the Mississippi River near the City of Brainerd in Crow Wing County. Brainerd is approximately 94 miles upstream of Monticello.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Chezik  
Regional Environmental Office

cc: L. MacLean, FWS, Fort Snelling, MN