

July 21, 2008

Mr. Philip R. Mahowald
General Counsel
Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PRAIRIE ISLAND
NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Mahowald:

As you know, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) recently received an application from Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), for the renewal of the operating licenses for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PINGP), located near Red Wing, Minnesota, approximately 39 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

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 licenses for PINGP will expire in August 9, 2013 and October 29, 2014. The proposed license renewal for PINGP Units 1 and 2 would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines. For the purpose of license renewal, NMC plans to replace the PINGP steam generators. As part of this refurbishment activity, NMC also plans to establish a temporary construction area approximately 100 yards northwest of the turbine building and to build permanent warehouses within existing plant boundaries. NMC states that there will be no clearing of previously-undisturbed areas. Provided for your information is the PINGP site boundary map (Enclosure 1) and transmission system map (Enclosure 2).

The NRC has established that, as part of the staff's review of any nuclear power plant license renewal action, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 51, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Additionally, as outlined in Section 51.28(b), the NRC's process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. The NRC recognizes the Prairie Island Indian Community's (PIIC) expertise in historic and archeological resources, land use, socioeconomics and environmental justice. As outlined in our Memorandum of Understanding, the PIIC has offered to contribute to staff's analysis in these areas.

The GEIS considered the environmental impacts of renewing nuclear power plant operating licenses for a 20-year period on all currently operating sites. In the GEIS the NRC staff identified 92 environmental issues and developed generic conclusions related to environmental impacts for 69 of these issues that apply to all plants or to plants with specific design or site characteristics. For the remaining 23 issues, plant-specific analyses will be documented in a SEIS. As part of its environmental review, staff considers any new and significant information related to Category 1 issues dispositioned generically in the GEIS. If new and significant information is identified that calls into question conclusions reached in the GEIS, staff's analysis will be documented within the SEIS for PINGP.

The SEIS will document the staff's review of environmental impacts related to land use, environmental justice, 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.

In addition to the PIIC's involvement in the NRC's technical review of land use, socioeconomic, cultural resources and archeology and environmental justice, we are soliciting your comments on the full scope of the environmental review. Please submit any comments that you may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by September 22, 2008. Written 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. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by e-mail at PrairieIslandEIS@nrc.gov.

To accommodate interested members of the public, the NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the PINGP license renewal environmental review on July 30, 2008. The first session will be held in the afternoon and an identical session will be held later that evening. The first meeting will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. 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. Both sessions will be held at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066.

The PINGP license renewal application and the GEIS are available on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/prairie-island.html>. In addition, the Red Wing Public Library has agreed to make the license renewal application and the GEIS available for public inspection; 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066. The staff expects to publish the draft SEIS in March 2009. Although the PIIC will be involved in preparing specific sections of the SEIS related to areas of its specialized expertise, a copy of the document will be sent to you for your review and comment on the entire draft SEIS. The NRC will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft SEIS.

P. Mahowald

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After consideration of public comments received, and collaborative work with the PIIC to resolve comments under the framework of the MOU, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS, which is scheduled to be issued in October, 2009. If you need additional information regarding the license renewal review process, please contact Mr. J.P. Leous, License Renewal Project Manager, at 301-415-2864 or at Justin.Leous@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

\RA Andrew Stuyvenberg for

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 & 50-306

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls.: See next page

P. Mahowald

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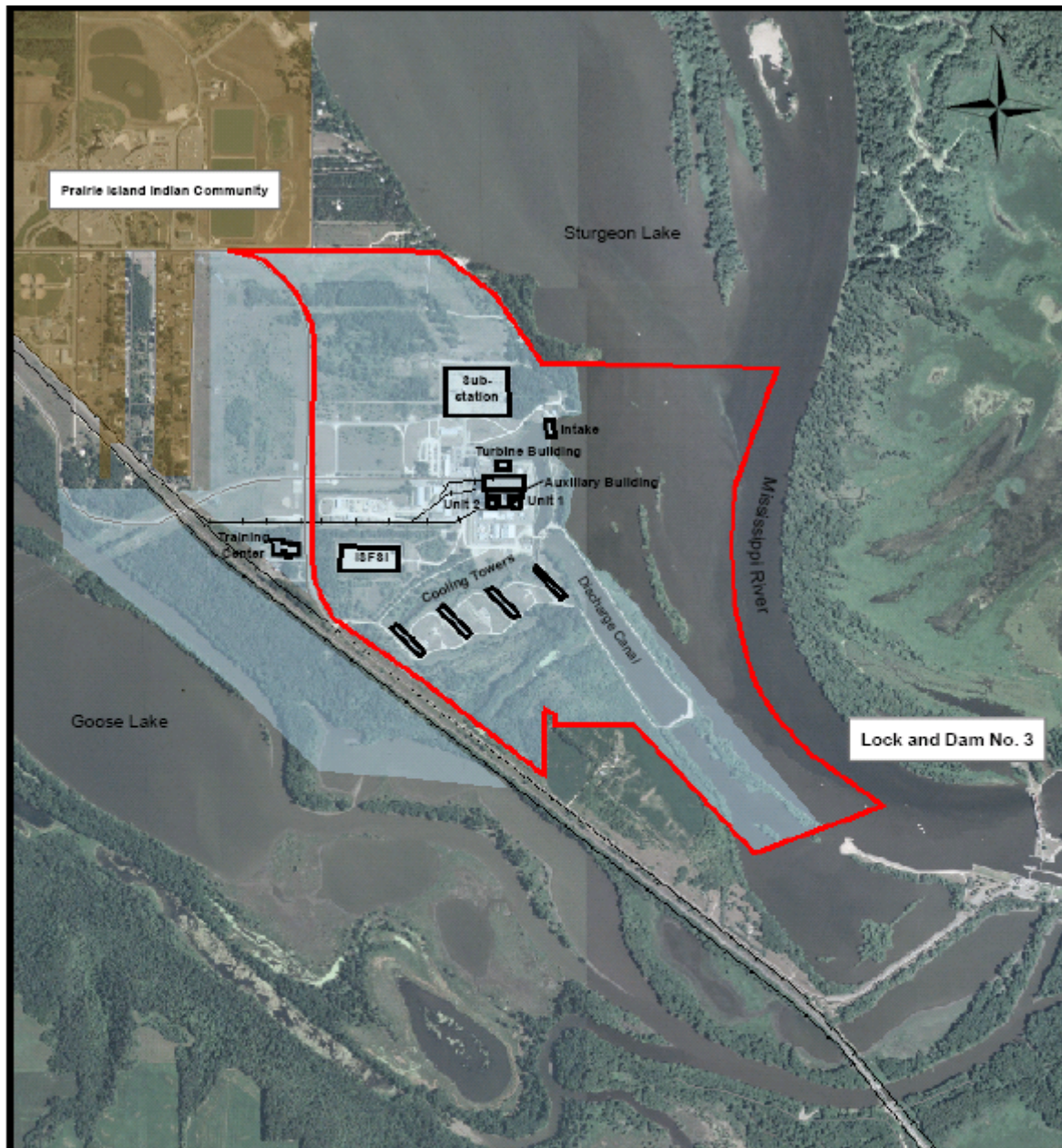
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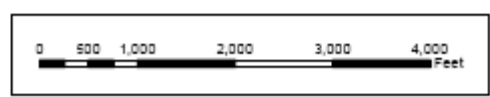
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NAME	IKing	JLeous	RPlasse	DStuyvenberg forRFranovich
DATE	7/7/08	7/8/08	7/9/08	7/21/08

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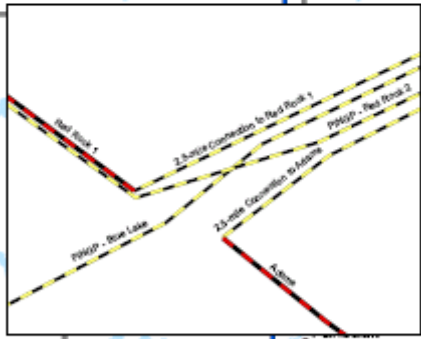
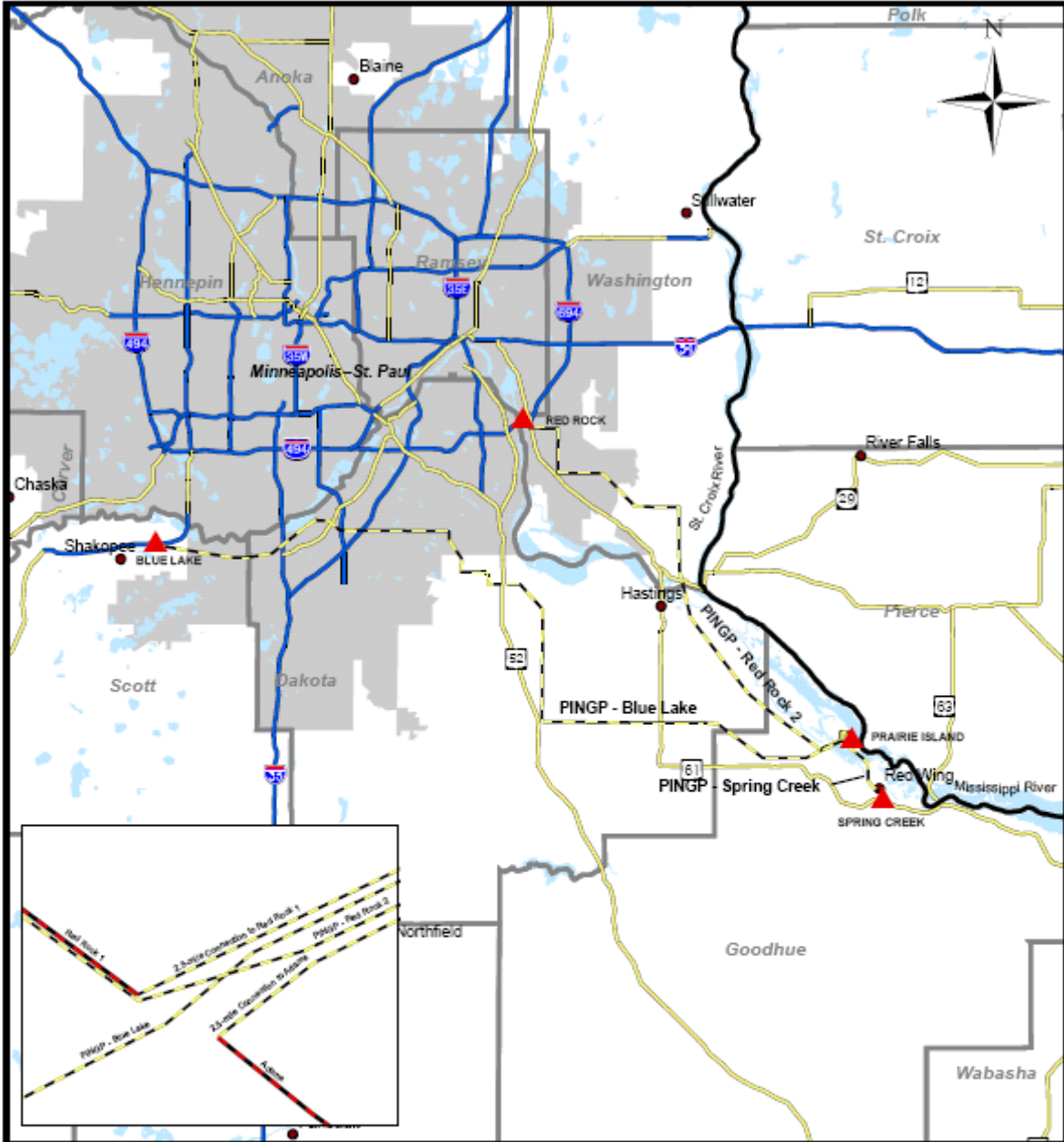


Legend










- Xcel Energy Property
- Plant Features
- Exclusion Area Boundary
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Local, Neighborhood, or Rural Road
- + Railroad

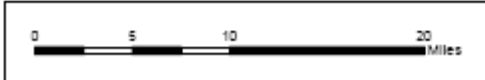


**Nuclear Management Company
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
License Renewal Environmental Report
Figure 2.1-3 Exclusion Area Boundary**



Legend

-  PINGP Transmission Line
-  Substation
-  Primary Highway with Limited Access
-  Primary Highway
-  City
-  Urban Area
-  Water
-  County Boundary
-  State Boundary



**Nuclear Management Company
 Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
 License Renewal Environmental Report
 Figure 3.1-2 PINGP Transmission System**

Letter to P. Mahowald from R. Franovich dated July 21, 2008

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NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

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Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,
Units 1 and 2

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Units 1 and 2

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