

July 22 2008

Mr. Terrance Virden
Midwest Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
1 Federal Drive
Room #550
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2,
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Virden:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) is reviewing an application to renew 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. PINGP is operated by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC). The application for renewal was submitted by NMC in a letter dated April 11, 2008, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54).

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," NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 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 that may be impacted by post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities specifically related to license renewal may potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest. 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.

The NRC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) for the PINGP license renewal environmental review (Enclosure). The MOU establishes a cooperating agency relationship between the NRC and the PIIC, with the NRC as lead agency responsible for preparing the SEIS.

T. Virden

- 2 -

On July 30, 2008, the NRC will conduct two public NEPA scoping meetings. The first session will be held in the afternoon and an identical session will be held later that evening. Both sessions will be held at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066. 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. You and your staff are invited to attend. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The staff expects to publish the draft SEIS in March 2009.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. J.P. Leous, License Renewal Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-2864 or by e-mail at Justin.Leous@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA by AStuyvenberg for/

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

Docket Nos. 50-282 & 50-306

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

T. Virden

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

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to T. Virden from R. Franovich, dated July 22, 2008

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LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

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Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,
Units 1 and 2

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