

July 15, 2008

Mr. Michael D. Wadley  
Site Vice President  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 & 2  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 & 2 (TAC NOS. MD8528 AND MD8529)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) has received your application dated April 11, 2008, as supplemented by letter dated May 16, 2008, for the renewal of the Operating Licenses No. DPR-42 and DPR-60 for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP). In support of the application and in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 54, Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) submitted an environmental report (ER). This letter provides information related to the staff's review of the PINGP ER.

In a letter dated June 26, 2008, the NRC had mention of a Notice of Intent to be published in the *Federal Register* advising the public that the NRC intends to gather information necessary to prepare a site-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) related to the review of the application for the renewal of the PINGP, Units 1 & 2, operating licenses. This notice was not published, requiring staff to draft the attached version of the NRC's Notice of Intent. Important scoping period dates have been adjusted to reflect the document's delayed publication.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28, NMC is invited to participate in the environmental scoping process. As discussed in the enclosed notice, the staff is providing the public with the opportunity to participate in two environmental scoping meetings to be held Wednesday, July 30, 2008. The meetings will be held at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Ave, Red Wing, MN 55066. The first session will be held in the afternoon, and the second session, covering the same subjects, will be held in the evening. The NRC will present an overview of the environmental review process and will describe how the process will be implemented for the review of the PINGP license renewal application.

M. Wadley

- 2 -

A separate NRC meeting notice with a more detailed agenda is forthcoming. You will be provided a copy of that notice.

In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, please contact the NRC's Project Manager, Mr. Richard Plasse, at 301-415-1427 or by e-mail at [richard.plasse@nrc.gov](mailto:richard.plasse@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**\RA\**

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

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/encl.: See next page

M. Wadley

- 2 -

A separate NRC meeting notice with a more detailed agenda is forthcoming. You will be provided a copy of that notice.

In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, please contact the NRC's Project Manager, Mr. Richard Plasse, at 301-415-1427 or by e-mail at [richard.plasse@nrc.gov](mailto:richard.plasse@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**IRA\**

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

Docket No. 50-282 and 50-306

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/encl.: See next page

Distribution: See next page

ADAMS Accession No.: ML081970679

OFFICE	LA:DLR	PM:DLR:RPB2	BC:DLR:RPB2
NAME	YEdmonds	JLeous	R.Franovich
DATE	7/15/08	7/15/08	7/15/08

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to M. Wadley from R. Franovich dated July 15, 2008

**DISTRIBUTION:**

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL  
FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 & 2  
(TAC NOS. MD8528 AND MD8529)

**HARD COPY:**

DLR RF

**E-MAIL**

T. Blount / S. Lee (RidsNrrDir)  
T. Combs, OCA  
T. Madden, OCA  
R. Shane, OCA  
B. Keeling, OCA  
R. Franovich (RidsNrrDirRebb)  
E. Benner (RidsNrrDirReba)  
R. Plasse  
M. Chawla  
R. Skokowski  
K. Stoedter  
P. Zurawski  
OPA (RidsOpaMail)  
D. McIntyre, OPA  
V. Mitlyng  
D. Roth, OGC  
OGC (RidsOGCMailRoom)  
DLR/REBB  
J.P. Leous

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTALIMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESSDOCKET NOS. 50-282 AND 50-306

Nuclear Management Company, LLC. (NMC) has submitted an application for renewal of Facility Operating Licenses No. DPR-42 and DPR-60 for an additional 20 years of operation at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PINGP). PINGP is located in the city of Red Wing, Minnesota, on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

The operating licenses for PINGP, Units 1 and 2, expire on August 9, 2013, and October 29, 2014, respectively. The application for renewal, dated April 11, 2008, and supplemented by letter dated May 16, 2008, was submitted pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6, 2008 (73 FR 25034), as corrected on May 27, 2008 (73 FR 30423). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating license was published in the *Federal Register* on June 17, 2008 (73 FR 34335). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) related to the review of the license renewal application and to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process, which is described in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, "Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act," the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the

ENCLOSURE

National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.53(c) and 10 CFR 54.23, NMC submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Numbers for the ER are ML081130677, ML081130681, and ML081130684. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov). The ER may also be viewed on the Internet at [www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/prairie-island.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/prairie-island.html). In addition, the ER is available for public inspection near PINGP at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Ave, Red Wing, MN 55066.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) related to the review of the application for renewal of the PINGP operating licenses for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 51.95 to prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with NEPA and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in the scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will follow 10 CFR 51.29 and will be used to:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to, but are not part of, the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, and include any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in scoping:

- a. The applicant, Nuclear Management Company, LLC.
- b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe.
- e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- f. Any person who has petitioned or intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold public meetings for the PINGP license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meetings will be held at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Ave, Red Wing, MN 55066, on Wednesday, July 30, 2008. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS.



Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the same location. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meetings on the scope of the NEPA review by contacting the NRC Project Manager, Mr. Richard Plasse, by telephone at 1-301-415-1427, or by e-mail to the NRC at [richard.plasse@nrc.gov](mailto:richard.plasse@nrc.gov) no later than July 24, 2008. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. Mr. Plasse will need to be contacted no later than July 24, 2008, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scope of the PINGP license renewal review to: Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. Comments may also be delivered to the NRC, Room T- 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by September 22, 2008. Electronic comments may be sent by e-mail to the NRC at [PrairieIslandEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:PrairieIslandEIS@nrc.gov), and should be sent no later than

September 22, 2008, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through ADAMS at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was the subject of the aforementioned Federal Register notice (73 FR 34335). Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection in ADAMS at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft supplement to the GEIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and separate public meetings. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mr. Plasse at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**IRAI**

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

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Peter M. Glass  
Assistant General Counsel  
Xcel Energy Services, Inc.  
414 Nicollet Mall (MP4)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

Manager - Environmental Protection Division  
Minnesota Attorney General's Office  
445 Minnesota St., Suite 900  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector's Office  
1719 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089-9642

Administrator  
Goodhue County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 408  
Red Wing, MN 55066-0408

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

Heather Westra  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089

Gene Eckholt  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

Jim Holthaus  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

Katie Himanga, Mayor  
City of Lake City  
205 West Center St.  
Lake City, MN 55041

Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Tribal Council  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
ATTN: Environmental Department  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089

Nuclear Asset Manager  
Xcel Energy, Inc.  
414 Nicollet Mall (MP4)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dennis L. Koehl  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
414 Nicollet Mall (MP4)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Joel P. Sorenson  
Director, Site Operations  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, - 2 -  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Joan Marshman  
30129 County 2 Blvd.  
P.O. Box 62  
Frontenac, MN 55026

Kristen Eide-Toffefson  
Florence Township Commission  
P.O. Box 130  
Frontenac, MN 55026

Carolyn Homsten, CPA  
Goodhue County  
Goodhue County Government Center  
509 W. 5th St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Kay Kuhlmann  
Council Administrator  
315 West 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Deanna Sheely  
Assistant City Council Administrator  
315 West 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Lisa Hanni  
Goodhue County Land Use Management  
Goodhue County Government Center  
509 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Nancy Shouweiller  
Commissioner – Forth District  
Dakota County Administrator Center  
1590 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033

Mr. Tony Sullins  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Twin Cities Ecological Services Office  
4101 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Stanley Crooks  
Chairman  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Stan Ellison  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Leonard Wabasha  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Emily Rusch, Environmental Review  
Assistant  
Wisconsin Department of Natural  
Resources  
Bureau of Endangered Species  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

Ms. Lisa A. Joyal  
Endangered Species Environmental Review  
Coordinator  
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research  
Program  
Minnesota Department of Natural  
Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Don L. Klima, Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 803  
Washington, DC 20004

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, - 3 -  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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

John L. Stine, Division Director  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Environmental Health Division  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

John Wurst  
3433 Staehili Park Rd.  
Lake City, MN 55041

Joe Ellingson  
30163 County 2 Blvd.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Michael McKay  
Chair, Wacouta Township  
30895 Lake View Ave.  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Elaine and Arlen Diercks  
Hay Creek Township  
33835 Diercks Lane  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Doub Lansing  
Maiden Rock Village  
Hwy. 35  
Maidenrock, WI 54750

Matrix Energy Solutions  
802 N. Pine Creek Rd.  
Maiden Rock, WI 54750

Mr. Ronald Johnson, President  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089

Mr. Kevin Jensvold, Chairman  
Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 147  
Granite Falls, MN 56241-0147

Jean Stacy, President  
Lower Sioux Indian Community of  
Minnesota  
39527 Res Highway 1  
P.O. Box 308  
Morton, MN 56270

Joseph Brings Plenty, Chairman  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Battle, SD 57625

Lester Thompson, Chairman  
Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 50  
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

Joshua Weston, President  
Flandreau Santee Sioux Executive  
Committee  
P.O. Box 283  
Flandreau, SD 57028

Michael Jandreau, Chairman  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council  
187 Oyate Circle  
Lower Brule, SD 57548

John Yellow Bird Steele, President  
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 2070  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, - 4 -  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Rodney Bordeaux, President  
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 430  
Rosebud, SD 57570

Roger Trudell, Chairman  
Santee Sioux Nation  
108 Spirit Lake Avenue West  
Niobrara, NE 68760-7219

Michael Selvage, Sr., Chairman  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake  
Traverse Reservation  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262

Myra Pearson, Chairperson  
Spirit Lake Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 359  
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Ron His Horse Is Thunder, Chairman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council  
P.O. Box D  
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Marcus D. Wells, Jr., Chairman  
Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, ND 58763

David Brien, Chairman  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, ND 58316

Matthew Pilcher, Chairman  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
100 Bluff Street  
P.O. Box 687  
Winnebago, NE 68071

Robert Cournoyer, Chairman  
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business & Claims  
Committee  
P.O. Box 248  
Marty, SD 57361-0248

Wilfrid Cleveland, President  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
W9814 Airport Road  
P.O. Box 667  
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Norman Deschampe, President  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
P.O. Box 217  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Kevin Leecy, Chairman  
Bois Forte Reservation Business  
Committee  
P.O. Box 16  
Nett Lake, MN 55770

Karen R. Diver, Chairwoman  
Fond du Lac Reservation Business  
Committee  
Fond du Lac Center  
1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720

Norman Deschampe, Chairman  
Grand Portage Reservation Business  
Committee  
P.O. Box 428  
Grande Portage, MN 55605

George Goggleye, Chairman  
Leech Lake Reservation Business  
Committee  
6530 U.S. Highway #2 NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,     - 5 -  
Units 1 and 2

Melanie A. Benjamin, Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
43048 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

Erma Vizenor, Chairwoman  
White Earth Reservation Business  
Committee  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591

Floyd Jourdain, Chairman  
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of  
Minnesota  
P.O. Box 550  
Red Lake, MN 56671

Hazel Hindsley, Chairwoman  
St. Croix Chipewa Indians of Wisconsin  
24663 Angeline Avenue  
Webster, WI 54893

Mr. Dennis A. Gimmestad  
Government Programs and Compliance  
Officer  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1903

Katrina Kessler  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road N  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194