



IN REPLY REFER TO:
Environmental
Services

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Midwest Regional Office
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building
One Federal Drive, Room 550
Fort Snelling, MN 55111



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AUG 18 2008

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 2, Division of License Renewal
Office of License Renewal
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Branch Chief Franovich:

This is in response to your letter requesting BIA attendance at a scoping meeting for license renewal at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant on July 30th of this year. Unfortunately your request was received by this office on July 31st making it impossible for us to attend. This is unfortunate as the Department of Interior is the federal trustee for lands held in trust for the beneficial use of the Prairie Island Indian Community and therefore has a vested interest in the process. Our questions/concerns are as follows:

How are the immediate environs defined as part of the APE? Have specific locations been identified for the "post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities" or "transmission line right-of-ways mentioned in your letter to the Minnesota-SHPO? Is there a map showing the boundaries of the APE? Have you consulted other Indian tribes?

Can you tell us where in the Section 106 process the NRC is currently?

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has an interest in the undertaking and its effect to the Prairie Island Indian Community and on historic properties. The BIA has a variety of legal and economic relations with the Community, and therefore request to participate as a consulting party under 36CFR800.2(c)(5) Additional consulting parties.

What guidance will be used in the analysis of Environmental Justice?

Do you anticipate any earth disturbing activities occurring on tribal trust lands?

Any BIA participation in this process should not be construed to replace consultation with the Prairie Island Indian Community or other interested tribes. Further consultation should

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occur with each of those tribes on a government-to-government level. The BIA would be happy to assist you in determining which tribes may be affected.

If you have any further questions the environmental staff contact is Scott Doig at 612-725-4514

Sincerely,

Signed/Kevin Bearquiver

Acting Regional Director