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U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk,
Director, Spent Fuel Project Office,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Transnuclear, Inc
Docket No. 71-9313

Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
Docket No. 72-10
Materials License No. SNM-2506

Schedule Information for Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) Application of the TN-40
Transportation Packaging for Spent Fuel (TAC No. L24001) and License Amendment
Request (LAR) to Modify TN-40 Cask Design (Designated as TN-40HT) (TAC No.
L24203)

- References:
1. Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) Application for Approval of the TN-40 Transportation Packaging for Spent Fuel, dated August 7 2006, Accession Number ML070750134.
 2. Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, "License Amendment Request (LAR) to Modify TN-40 Cask Design (Designated as TN-40HT)", dated March 28, 2008, Accession Number ML081190039.
 3. Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for Certificates of Need for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant for Additional Dry Cask Storage, Docket No. E002/CN-08-510, dated May 16, 2008.
 4. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) letter, "Schedule for Review of Nuclear Management Company, LLC Amendment Request to Modify the TN-40 Cask Design at the Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI)", dated October 22, 2008, Accession Number ML082970575.

In Reference 1, TN, under contract to the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC)*, applied to the NRC to approve the TN-40 transportation package for spent fuel. In Reference 2, NMC submitted an LAR to revise the Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) license and Technical Specifications (TS) for the Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (PIISFSI), to modify the TN-40 cask (designated as the TN-40HT cask) for storage of higher enrichment and burnup fuel. NSPM is currently licensed (License No. SNM-2506) to use the TN-40 cask design for storage at the PIISFSI. TN submitted the Reference 1 LAR to support an Xcel Energy Certificate of Need (CON) application. Recently NSPM learned that the approval date for the Reference 1 submittal may be extended due to another set of NRC requests for additional information. This letter communicates NSPM schedule requests for the Reference 1 and 2 submittals currently under NRC review.

On May 16, 2008, Xcel Energy submitted a CON application to the Minnesota public Utility Commission (MPUC) (Reference 3) for approval of additional dry spent fuel storage at the PIISFSI to support 20 years of additional operation that would result from renewing the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant's (PINGP) NRC operating license. The CON application was prepared assuming that the TN-40 style dry cask storage system, which includes the TN-40HT cask design submitted to the NRC for approval in Reference 2, would be the system utilized for additional storage. The State of Minnesota has an interest in assuring that the proposed storage system can also be used for transportation. Since the TN-40HT dry storage cask is a modification of the TN-40 dry storage cask, licensing of the current TN-40 dry storage cask for transportation (Reference 1) will provide confidence that the TN-40HT can also be licensed for transportation.

NSPM requests NRC approval of the Reference 1 LAR by March 15, 2009 to support the CON application. As part of the CON process, Xcel Energy is scheduled to provide testimony to the Administrative Law Judge on April 1, 2009. As part of that testimony Xcel Energy intends to address how it will provide for transportation of spent fuel; Xcel Energy plans to present the current TN-40 cask as a storage and transportation system. However, NRC approval of the TN-40 cask for transportation (Reference 1) is required to support this testimony. To allow some time for preparation of testimony, NSPM needs TN-40 approval for transportation by March 15, 2009.

In Reference 4, the NRC provided September 27, 2009 as the target date for issuance of the TN-40HT safety evaluation. This date supports the MPUC CON review schedule which estimates that the MPUC order will be issued in the fall of 2009.

In summary, NSPM requests approval of Transnuclear's Part 71 TN-40 Transport application (Reference 1) by March 15, 2009 and the approval of the TN-40HT Part 72 Storage application (Reference 2) by September 27, 2009.

* On September 22, 2008, NMC transferred its operating authority to Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation (NSPM), a wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy. By letter dated September 3, 2008, NSPM assumed responsibility for actions and commitments previously submitted by NMC.

If there are any questions or if additional information is needed, please contact Mr. Dale Vincent, P.E., at 651-388-1121.

Summary of Commitments

This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.



Michael D. Wadley
Site Vice President, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota

cc: Administrator, Region III, USNRC
SFST Project Manager, Prairie Island ISFSI, USNRC
SFST Project Manager, Docket No. 71-9313
NRR Project Manager, Prairie Island, USNRC
Resident Inspector, Prairie Island, USNRC
State of Minnesota