



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) with open items for the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1 and Unit 2, located in Welch, Minn.

The report documents the interim results of the NRC staff's review of the license renewal application and site audits of the plant's aging management programs to address the safety of plant operations during the period of extended operations. Overall, the results show that the applicant has identified actions that have been or will be taken to manage the effects of aging in the appropriate safety systems, structures and components of the plant and that their functions will be maintained during the period of extended operation.

In a letter dated June 4, Brian Holian, director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's Division of License Renewal, provided Northern States Power Company with the SER. Issuance of an SER with open items is a typical milestone in a license renewal review. The SER identifies open items that still need to be addressed by the applicant before the staff can complete its review. The open items in this SER involve additional reviews of the waste-gas decay tanks, vessel internals program, and the reactor and structures' monitoring programs.

Northern States Power Company applied for a 20-year license extension for each of the two units at the site on April 15, 2008, to renew the licenses for both Prairie Island reactors. If approved, the expiration date for Prairie Island, Unit 1 would be extended to Aug. 9, 2033; and for Unit 2, the license would be extended to Oct. 29, 2034.

A copy of the Prairie Island license renewal application is available at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Ave., Red Wing, Minn., and via the NRC's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/prairie-island.html>. After Northern States Power Company provides satisfactory information to address the open items, the NRC staff will present its conclusions on the license renewal application in an update to this SER. A Final SER is estimated to be issued this year in late October.

The SER and the license renewal application have also been provided to the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), an independent body of experts that advises the NRC on reactor safety matters. An ACRS subcommittee is expected to discuss the SER during a July 7, public meeting at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Md. Details of this meeting will be announced on the agency's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm>. The full ACRS will later issue a report discussing the results of its review.

A copy of the letter and the SER will be available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) under accession number ML091040454. ADAMS is accessible via the agency's Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.

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