

July 10, 2009

Lisa Joyal  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources,  
Division of Ecological Resources  
Box 25  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND  
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

Dear Ms. Joyal:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing a license amendment request submitted from Northern States Power Company Minnesota (NSP) on March 28, 2008, to modify the current TN-40 cask design at Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation in Red Wing, Minnesota.

NRC staff has completed its environmental review of NSP's application and has drafted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document our findings. We conclude in the EA that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

For your convenience, three copies of the draft EA are enclosed, which are marked pre-decisional information and is limited to use by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and staff. The three copies are to be distributed per your discretion to ensure that an adequate review is conducted. We request that the distribution and use of this document be limited only to those staff involved in the review and comment process. We further request that your office provide any comments to the NRC staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the public without redaction.

The NRC staff will consider your timely comments, and will revise the EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the EA, the staff plans to forward its Finding of No Significant Impact for publication in the *Federal Register*.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter and your response will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html>.

L. Joyal

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If you have any questions, please contact Kellee Jamerson of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-7649 or by e-mail to [Kellee.Jamerson@nrc.gov](mailto:Kellee.Jamerson@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/ H Yilma for Andrea Kock

Andrea L. Kock, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Environmental Protection  
and Performance Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No. 72-0010  
License No. SNM-2506

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

L. Joyal

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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kellee Jamerson of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-7649 or by e-mail to [Kellee.Jamerson@nrc.gov](mailto:Kellee.Jamerson@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/ H. Yilma for Andrea Kock

Andrea L. Kock, Chief  
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<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>ERB</b>	<b>ERB</b>	<b>NMSS</b>	<b>ERB</b>
<b>NAME</b>	KJamerson	AWalker-Smith	PLongmire via email	H. Yilma for AKock
<b>DATE</b>	06/29/09	06/29/09	06/15/09	07/10/09

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