



NRC NEWS

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NRC SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is seeking public comments on its preliminary conclusion that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude renewal of the operating licenses for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 located 28 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Minn.

As part of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant's license renewal application, dated April 11, 2008, Northern States Power Co. submitted an environmental report. The NRC staff reviewed the report and performed an on-site audit. The staff also considered comments made during the environmental scoping process, including comments offered at public meetings held July 30, 2008. Based on its review, the NRC staff has preliminarily determined that the environmental impacts of the license renewal for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 are not so great that they preclude license renewal.

The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) is open for public comment until Jan. 29, 2010, and will be the subject of two public meetings to be announced separately within the next several weeks.

NRC staff will consider written comments on the draft EIS. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to PrairieIslandEIS@nrc.gov. Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant has a term of 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 expire on Aug. 9, 2013, for Unit 1 and Oct. 29, 2014, for Unit 2.

The possible environmental effects of an additional 20 years of nuclear plant operation are described in a generic EIS (NUREG-1437). The NRC issues a site-specific supplement to the generic EIS on each plant requesting license renewal; issues specific to Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 are addressed in Supplement 39.

The draft supplement to the generic EIS and other related documents are available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room at NRC headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.; or electronically through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System through the NRC webpage at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> . The accession number of the draft supplement is ML0931703484.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the NRC staff will consider and address the comments received and issue a final supplement to the generic EIS. That supplement will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability for license renewal.

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