



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued its final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2. The report concluded there are no environmental impacts that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

The Prairie Island plant has two pressurized-water reactors located 28 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Minn. The current operating licenses for Units 1 and 2 expire on Aug. 9, 2013, and Oct. 29, 2014, respectively.

Northern States Power Company submitted an application to the NRC on April 11, 2008, to extend the Prairie Island licenses by 20 years. Under NRC regulations, the original operating licenses for a nuclear power plant have a term of 40 years. The licenses may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. Therefore, if approved, the current operating licenses for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 would be extended to 2033 and 2034.

In a letter dated June 14, 2008, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) for working together to review potential environmental impacts of the proposed license renewal. This was the first MOU dealing with a license renewal environmental review.

The MOU recognized PIIC's special expertise and information as it related to historic and archeological resources, socioeconomics, land use, and environmental justice. The NRC retains final authority on the renewal decision.

This license renewal review process proceeds along two tracks – one for review of safety issues and another for environmental issues.

As part of its environmental review of the application, the NRC held public meetings near the plant to discuss the review process and the draft version of the environmental impact statement. Comments were received and considered from members of the public, the PIIC, local officials, and representatives of State and federal agencies.

Publication of the final environmental impact statement does not represent final NRC action on the license renewal application. The agency staff completed its safety evaluation report (SER) in October 2009. The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) evaluated the SER and issued its recommendation to the Commission on January 13, 2010.

The Prairie Island final environmental impact statement is available on the NRC's website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement39/> and can also be viewed in the NRC's ADAMS online documents system at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> by entering accession number "ML11133A029" in the search window. 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.

The Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 license renewal application is posted at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/prairie-island.html>. Documents related to Prairie Island's license renewal are also located at the Red Wing Public Library, at 225 East Ave. in Red Wing, Minn. Additional information about the license renewal process is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

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