

November 15, 2012

Mr. James E. Molden,
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Company
Northern States Power Company – Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089-9642

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST – ACCEPTED FOR
REVIEW (TAC NO. L24666)

Dear Mr. Molden:

By letter dated June 18, 2012, as supplemented October 26, and November 9, 2012, Northern States Power Company submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) an amendment request to the Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) license number SNM-2506 Technical Specifications (TS) for the Prairie Island independent spent fuel storage installation. The proposed amendment request seeks to revise the minimum total thermal conductance of the TN-40HT neutron absorber and aluminum 1100 plate from 3.98 BTU/hr-deg F to 3.55 BTU/hr-deg F (TS 4.3.2.b - Thermal Conductivity Testing of Neutron Absorbers).

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to complete its detailed review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements, and the protection of public health and safety, and the environment. We have established a schedule for this review which allows for the staff to issue a Request for Additional Information (RAI) in January 2013, and to prepare its Safety Evaluation Report (SER) in May 2013. If no RAI is needed, the staff's SER may be completed earlier.

Please reference Docket No. 72-10 and TAC No. L24666 in future correspondence related to this licensing action. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 492-3148.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Chris Allen, Project Manager
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-10

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