

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

[Docket Nos.: 50-282, 50-306 AND 72-10, LICENSE NO. SNM-2506]

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pamela Longmire, Ph.D., Project Manager, Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Telephone: (301) 287-0829; Fax number: (301) 287-9341; E-mail: pamela.longmire@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. INTRODUCTION

The NRC is considering issuance of an exemption to Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM or the licensee), doing business as Xcel Energy, pursuant to section 73.5 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), "Specific exemptions," from specific portions of the requirements of 10 CFR 73.51, "Requirements for the physical protection of stored spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste," for the Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Background: The licensee possesses a specific license under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 72, for the storage of spent fuel in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The licensee is subject to 10 CFR 73.51(d)(3), which provides in part that “[t]he perimeter of the protected area must be subject to continual surveillance and be protected by an active intrusion alarm system which is capable of detecting penetrations through the isolation zone and that is monitored in a continually staffed primary alarm station and in one additional continually staffed location. The primary alarm station must be located within the protected area; have bullet-resisting walls, doors, ceiling and floor; and the interior of the station must not be visible from outside the protected area. A timely means for assessment of alarms must also be provided. Regarding alarm monitoring, the redundant location need only provide a summary indication that an alarm has been generated.”

Identification of Proposed Action: In a letter dated May 16, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13140A105), NSPM requests an exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR 73.51(d)(3). The proposed exemption request pertains to the location of the primary alarm station. In the preparation of this Environmental Assessment, the staff used guidance in NUREG-1748, “Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs” (ADAMS Accession No. ML032450279)

Need for the Proposed Action: NSPM seeks relief from a provision of 10 CFR 73.51(d)(3) with regard to the location of the primary alarm station. NSPM maintains that the proposed exemption facilitates effective security activities at both the Prairie Island power station and the ISFSI, in that the exemption would provide uniformity and consistency in managing security at the collocated sites.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The NRC staff evaluated the exemption request in greater detail in its safety evaluation report (SER). The SER is withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 because it contains security information.

The NRC has determined that issuance of the proposed exemption will have no significant environmental impact. Additionally, the NRC has concluded that the Prairie Island physical security plan, should the Commission issue the requested exemption, will continue to provide high assurance that activities involving spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste do not constitute an unreasonable risk to public health and safety, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.51(b)(1).

The proposed action will not have any environmental impact. It will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types or quantities of effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The proposed action does not affect non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Thus, there are no significant non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action. Therefore, the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Based on these findings, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the approval of the requested exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Since there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental

impact are not evaluated. The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny approval of the exemption. This alternative would have the same environmental impacts.

The NRC staff has determined that a consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required because the proposed action will not affect listed species or critical habitat. The NRC staff has also determined that the proposed action is not a type of activity that has the potential to impact historic properties because the proposed action would occur within the established Prairie Island site boundary. Therefore, no consultation is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51. Based upon this environmental assessment, the NRC finds that the proposed action, issuance of an exemption from specific physical security requirements in 10 CFR 73.51(d)(3), as further discussed in the safety evaluation, will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption is not warranted, and a finding of no significant impact is appropriate.

IV. Further Information

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," final NRC records and documents regarding this proposed action are publicly available in the records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The request for exemption dated July 11, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13193A088), was docketed under 10 CFR Part 72, Docket 72-10. These documents may be inspected at NRC'S Public Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. These documents may also be viewed electronically on the public computers located at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), O1F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. The PDR reproduction contractor will copy documents for a fee. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or (301) 415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this day of June, 2014.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Timothy R. Lupold, Acting Chief
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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