



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 17, 2017

Thomas Hogan, Director  
Minnesota Dept. of Health  
Environmental Health Division  
625 N. Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF  
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR  
GENERATING PLANT INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE  
INSTALLATION DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING PLAN

Dear Mr. Hogan:

By letter dated December 14, 2012, and December 14, 2015, Northern States Power Company - Minnesota (dba Xcel Energy) (Xcel Energy) submitted decommissioning funding plan (DFP) for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), located in Minnesota, for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and approval.

The NRC regulations at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 72, "Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater than Class C Waste," govern the storage of spent nuclear fuel (spent fuel) generated at commercial nuclear power reactors licensed by the NRC. Spent fuel that has been removed from the reactor's spent fuel pool is typically stored at a nuclear power plant's ISFSI.

The NRC requires its licensees to plan for the eventual decommissioning of their licensed facilities prior to license termination. On June 17, 2011, the NRC published a final rule amending its decommissioning planning regulations (76 *Federal Register* (FR) 35512). The final rule amended the NRC regulation, 10 CFR 72.30, which concerns financial assurance and decommissioning for ISFSIs. This regulation now requires each holder of, or applicant for, a license under 10 CFR Part 72 to submit, for NRC review and approval, a DFP. The purpose of the DFP is to demonstrate the licensee's financial assurance (i.e., that funds will be available to decommission the ISFSI). The NRC staff is reviewing the information submitted by Xcel Energy. Specifically, the NRC must determine whether Xcel Energy DFP contains the information required by 10 CFR 72.30(b) and 10 CFR 72.30(c) Triennial Update and whether Xcel Energy has provided reasonable assurance that funds will be available to decommission the ISFSI.

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-2-

The Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant ISFSI DFP is publicly available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS accession number for the application is ML12353A292 for the original 2012 submittal and ML15348A141 for the 2015 triennial update submittal.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the agency has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action (enclosed). We are providing your office with the opportunity to review the draft EA and comment on environmental issues prior to the public issuance and publication of the EA. We request that distribution and use of the enclosed draft EA be limited only to those staff involved in the review and comment process.

Please submit any comments within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Document Control Desk, ATTN: John McKirgan, Mail Stop: TWFN 4B34, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Pamela Longmire of my staff by telephone at 301-415-7465, or by e-mail at [pamela.longmire@nrc.gov](mailto:pamela.longmire@nrc.gov). The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance and publication. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John McKirgan, Chief  
Spent Fuel Licensing Branch  
Division of Spent Fuel Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-10  
CAC No.: L24815

Enclosure:  
Draft Environmental Assessment

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-3-

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING PLAN, DOCUMENT DATE: AUGUST 17, 2017

DISTRIBUTION:

G:\SFST\72.30 Decommissioning Funding Plans\72.30(b)&(c)\Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant\DFP Consultation Letter to State.docx

**ADAMS Package No.: ML17226A176 Letter: ML17226A177 Encl: ML17226A178**

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<b>DATE</b>	7/20/17		8/4/17		8/17/17	

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