



Minnesota
Environmental Quality Board

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
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DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 50,51

44 FR 61372

October 31, 1980

Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chilk:

I am writing to request your assistance in determining how the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) can monitor the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) nuclear waste confidence proceeding.

The MEQB has twelve members: the heads of the seven state agencies that are concerned with environmental issues, four citizen members, and a representative for the Governor. Its purposes include coordination of environmental policy for issues of statewide significance and administration of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. The MEQB became interested in the nuclear waste issue when, in the course of its environmental review of the second proposal in four years to increase the storage capacity of the spent fuel pools at the Prairie Island nuclear generating plant, it became apparent that nuclear waste is the major unresolved issue related to nuclear power and that a state environmental impact statement (EIS) would do nothing to resolve the nuclear waste issue. The MEQB determined that establishing liaison with the NRC is an important step in any effort to accelerate federal efforts in resolving this issue (see enclosed Order).

On behalf of the MEQB, I am requesting the following from NRC:

1. That the NRC keep the MEQB informed of the progress and findings of the nuclear waste confidence proceeding which was announced in the Federal Register (Volume 44 No. 208 pp. 61372-5) on October 25, 1979. I note that the deadline for our participation as a "full participant" has long since expired; however, I am hopeful that there is some way that the MEQB can closely monitor this proceeding.

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2. The names and telephone numbers of the NRC technical and legal staff involved in the nuclear waste confidence proceeding.
3. Information about any other ongoing NRC projects which are related to nuclear waste disposal.

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Benner, Executive Director
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

RB:PA/ms

Enclosure

STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In the Matter of the Determination
of the Need for an Environmental
Impact Statement on the Proposal to
Increase Storage Capacity of the
Spent Fuel Pool at the Prairie
Island Nuclear Generating Plant at
Prairie Island, Minnesota, Pursuant
to Minn. Stat. Ch. 116D (1978)

ORDER

The above-captioned matter came before the Environmental Quality Board at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof on September 18, 1980. Northern States Power Company appeared by Raymond Haik, Prairie Island Project appeared by Mark S. Wernick, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency appeared by Jocelyn Olson. Upon the argument of the parties and all documents and matters of record, the Environmental Quality Board makes the following

ORDER

1. THAT the Findings and Conclusions of the Hearing Examiner be adopted with those amendments proposed by staff and counsel and as further amended at this meeting and that the same be and hereby are incorporated into this Order;
2. THAT the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board establish liaison with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the purpose of monitoring the design and probable date for the implementation of a federal program for the permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel;
3. THAT Northern States Power Company shall provide the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board with an annual report which: identifies the number of spent fuel rods stored in the preceding year, the cumulative total of spent fuel rods stored, the remaining capacity of the storage facility and an estimate of the time remaining before the maximum capacity of the storage facility will be utilized;
4. THAT the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board direct its Executive Director to prepare an information book on the environmental implications of the proposed action by condensing the relevant information in the hearing record into a form usable by the public at large; and
5. THAT no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS

18 DAY OF September, 1980


Arthur E. Sidner, Chairman
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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