



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

PDR

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

April 18, 1994

Note to: File

From:

Kathryn Winsberg
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Subject: NOTES FROM APRIL 18, 1994 MEETING BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN,
THE MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND NORTHERN STATES
POWER CO. REPRESENTATIVES

Attendees: Hubert H. Humphrey III, Attorney General; Eric F. Swanson, Assistant Attorney General, Residential Utilities Division; Leon Eliason, President, Northern States Power Generation; Gary Johnson, Vice President and General Counsel NSP; Mike Connelly, Senior Attorney; Jay Silberg, Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge; William C. Parler, General Counsel NRC; Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Deputy Executive Director for Nuclear Materials Safety, Safeguards & Operations Support; Dennis K. Rathbun, Executive Assistant to the Chairman; Kathryn Winsberg, Legal Assistant to the Chairman.

Attorney General Humphrey stated that the purpose of this meeting was to explore whether there were any options to facilitate the siting process for solving the spent fuel storage problems at Prairie Island without denigrating any due process rights of the people. He stated that he believes that the prospects for legislative approval of dry cask storage at Prairie Island are not likely. Therefore, since the capacity of the spent fuel pool will be exhausted and Prairie Island will be forced to begin planning for shutdown next year if a new storage option is not identified, all possible alternatives ought to be considered.

After listening to the Attorney General's presentation, Dr. Selin summarized that there appear to be five options: 1) Cease operations and leave fuel onsite in spent fuel pool; 2) Expand the spent fuel pool capacity; 3) Continue operations with storage onsite in dry casks; 4) Continue operations with spent fuel transported to and stored in generally licensed casks at Monticello; and 5) Continue operations with spent fuel stored at a new independent spent fuel storage installation at an independent location. He added that all options would be safe if other considerations dictated the specific choice of option. Dr. Selin stated his personal view that from a regulatory perspective, for the purpose of comparing the relative risks of these options for storage of the spent fuel, the simplest option would be to allow continued operation with dry cask storage at Prairie Island. Although the relative risks are insignificant, dry cask storage would be slightly preferable to pool storage; storage at the site would be slightly preferable to requiring transportation to a storage site; and the operational controls

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over storage at the site of an operating reactor would be preferable to storage with a shutdown reactor.

Any dry cask storage option which involves a new site outside of the Prairie Island site or another licensed power reactor site would require a full application review and environmental impact analysis for licensing. If the application were contested and a public hearing were requested, the entire review and approval process could easily take four years.

Dry cask storage at Monticello, using a generally licensed cask, would require a license amendment for Monticello to receive Prairie Island's spent fuel, with attendant rights to request a public hearing. The transportation plan for spent fuel to be moved to another site could also be of interest to the public.

Attorney General Humphrey thanked Dr. Selin and the staff in attendance for the opportunity to discuss these matters.

cc: PDR