



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

ATTACHMENT

April 15, 1994

The Honorable Loren G. Jennings  
State Representative  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Jennings:

I am responding to your letter dated April 14, 1994, which requested information regarding the length of time that would be required to rerack the Prairie Island spent fuel pool if Northern States Power were denied the use of dry cask storage. The following answers are provided in response to the questions in your letter:

- 1) I am aware that Prairie Island has previously reracked its spent fuel pool; however, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is not involved with a licensee's design and preparation of a license amendment application. Northern States Power or another utility representative would be the appropriate source for information regarding time required for preparation of a rerack application.
- 2) The length of time required for a review of a licensee's application for reracking is approximately 1 year. This estimate is based on a survey of five recent rerack reviews. These reviews took from 9 to 16 months from date of application to date of amendment issuance. Third party intervention and public hearings before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board should not affect the review process. Under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.91, if the NRC makes a final determination that No Significant Hazards Consideration is involved and that the amendment should be issued, the amendment will be effective upon issuance, even if adverse public comments have been received and even if a request for hearing has been filed.
- 3) The length of time involved with the fabrication of racks and installation at a plant is utility specific. It is dependent upon the schedule the utility and manufacturer have set. From a quick survey of some of the plants that have recently received a rerack amendment and are currently in the rack manufacturing and installation phase of the process, implementation may take anywhere from 1 year to several years.

I trust this information is responsive to your request. If you have any additional questions, you may contact the Prairie Island Project Manager, Marsha Gamberoni at (301) 504-3024.

Sincerely,

William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
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cc:

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