

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-282 AND 50-306NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 to Northern States Power Company (the licensee), for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would relax the requirement that there be no intervening combustibles between redundant safe shutdown equipment in the containments for each unit. The exemption would also relax the requirement that any oil leakage from the Reactor Coolant Pumps must be drained to a closed vented container. The leakage would first be drained to a sump from which it would be pumped to a closed vented container.

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated January 23, 1984, as supplemented by letters dated April 5 and May 22, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing fire protection at their plant for these items are the most practical method for meeting the intent of Appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection that is equivalent to that required by Appendix R for other areas of the plant such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at these facilities. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

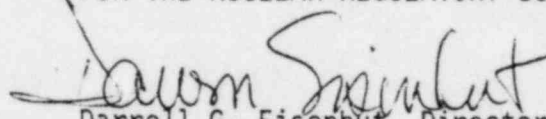
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for the exemption dated January 23, 1984, and supplements dated April 5 and May 22, 1984, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Environmental Conservation Library, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 12th day of July, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
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