

72-10

Loren G. Jennings

State Representative

District 18B

Chisago and Pine Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE DIVISION;
REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY; FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE

December 20, 1996

Mr. Charles J. Haughney, Acting Director
Spent Fuel Projects Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Haughney,

I am the Chair of the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee in the Minnesota House of Representatives. This committee has jurisdiction over the dry cask storage project at the Northern States Power Company Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. Recently, several groups have made allegations that the TN-40 casks used at Prairie Island to store spent nuclear fuel cannot be safely unloaded. Specifically they allege that 1) the unloading procedures are inadequate, and 2) that no spent fuel cask has ever been unloaded so there is no experience to demonstrate that casks can be safely unloaded.

I would like you or one of your staff members to clarify this situation. I would be dismayed to learn that NRC would license and allow Prairie Island to load a cask that was incapable of being safely unloaded.

I regard these allegations as extremely serious and would appreciate your prompt reply. I would certainly like to have this information before the legislative session begins on January 7, 1997.

Sincerely,

Loren G. Jennings
State Representative

NIFOL610

080012
9701080042 961220
PDR ADCK 05000282
Y PDR

