

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
DOCKETS NOS. 50-282 AND 50-306
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-42 and DPR-60, issued to Northern States Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units Nos. 1 and 2, located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications (TSs) to change the protective instrumentation setting for the automatic reactor trip associated with high flux, power range (low setpoint) from equal to or less than 25% of rated power to equal to or less than 40% of rated power. This instrumentation setting applies only for reactor startup protection.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 3, 1987.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the TSs is required to eliminate the potential of scrambling the reactor unnecessarily at low power levels (i.e., approximately 33%).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision

to the Technical Specifications. The proposed revision would change the high flux, power range (low setpoint) in Specification 2.3.A.1.b to read "... \leq 40% of rated power" rather than "... \leq 25% of rated power." This change would apply for low power operations. Since the evaluation demonstrates that the plant does not exceed the acceptable thermal limits, the proposed change does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change to the TSs involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on March 25, 1988 (53 FR 9832). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment.

This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements related to the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant dated May 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

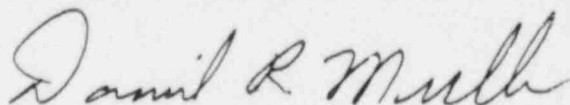
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

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 amendment dated November 3, 1987, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Technology and Science Department, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of May 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Daniel R. Muller, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects III,
IV, V & Special Projects

May 24, 1988

DOCKET NO. 50-282

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rules and Procedures Branch
Division of Rules and Records
Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT (TACS 66865 AND 66866)

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is enclosed for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies () of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s); Time for Submission of Views on Antitrust Matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License.
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- Order.
- Exemption.
- Notice of Granting Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Other: _____

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
PROJECT DIRECTORATE III-1
DIVISION OF REACTOR PROJECTS II, IV, V
& SPECIAL PROJECTS

Enclosure:
As stated

Contact: CRYSTAL ROBERSON
Phone: X21318

OFFICE ▶							
SURNAME ▶							
DATE ▶	5/24/88						