

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
DOCKET NOS. 50-282, 50-306 AND 72-10  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT AND  
PRAIRIE ISLAND INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION  
ISSUANCE OF DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

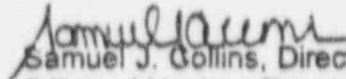
Notice is hereby given that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has issued a Director's Decision concerning a Petition dated May 28, 1997, filed by the Prairie Island Indian Community (Petitioners) under Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.206). The Petition requested that the NRC (1) determine that Northern States Power Company (the licensee) violated the requirements of 10 CFR 72.122(l) by using its Materials License No. SNM-2506 for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) prior to establishing conditions for safely unloading the TN-40 dry storage containers; (2) suspend Materials License No. SNM-2506 for cause under 10 CFR 50.100 until such time as all significant issues in the unloading process, as described in the Petition, have been resolved, the unloading process has been demonstrated, and until an independent third-party review of the TN-40 unloading procedure has been conducted; (3) provide Petitioners an opportunity to participate fully in the reviewing of the unloading procedure for the TN-40 cask, hold hearings and allow Petitioners to participate fully in these and any other procedures initiated in response to the Petition; and (4) update the Technical Specifications for the Prairie Island ISFSI to incorporate mandatory unloading procedure requirements.

The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that the Petition should be denied for the reasons stated in the "Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206" (DD-97-18), the complete text of which follows this notice. The decision and documents cited in the decision are available for public inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN.

A copy of this decision has been filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c). As provided therein, this decision will become the final action of the Commission 25 days after issuance unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes a review of the decision within that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of August 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation