



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

February 23, 2023

Mr. Christopher P. Domingos
Site Vice President
Northern States Power Company
- Minnesota
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 – DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY—A MINNESOTA CORPORATION’S, APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Christopher Domingos:

By letter dated January 9, 2023 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML23009A352), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM, the applicant) submitted an application for subsequent license renewal of Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-22 for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP), Unit 1, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

By letter dated January 24, 2023 (ML23010A007), and *Federal Register* Notice (FRN) (ML23010A006, 88 FR 6327) dated January 31, 2023, the NRC noted the receipt and availability of this application.

The acceptance review is intended to identify whether the application is reasonably complete and conforms to the timing and information requirements in applicable regulations. The NRC staff reviewed your application following the guidance in NUREG-2192, Revision 0, “Standard Review Plan for Review of Subsequent License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants,” and NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, Revision 1, “Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants,” to determine if the application is sufficient and acceptable for docketing in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.101, “Filing of application,” 51.45, “Environmental report,” 51.53(c), “Postconstruction environmental reports,” 54.19, “Contents of application--general information,” 54.21, “Contents of application--technical information,” 54.22, “Contents of application--technical specifications,” and 54.23, “Contents of application--environmental information.”

The NRC staff conducted two pre-submittal meetings, as documented in letters dated March 31, 2022 (ML22084A385) and October 24, 2022 (ML22292A012).

During the sufficiency review, it was noted that a few numbers embedded within two tables had not been provided. The NRC staff decided to not delay acceptance of the application because the amount of the information not provided was very small compared to the size of the application. The information was discussed with the applicant, and the applicant will be sending in a proprietary supplement with those numbers shortly. Based on the results of the NRC staff's sufficiency review, the NRC staff has concluded that the application is acceptable for docketing. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to a detailed technical review, the staff's determination does not preclude requests for additional information or topic specific audits. Additionally, the determination to accept the application for docketing does not constitute a determination that a renewed operating license should be issued. During the NRC staff's detailed technical review, there may be instances identified in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

This letter also forwards the NRC staff's projected review schedule for the MNGP subsequent license renewal application (SLRA) (Enclosure 1). The NRC staff will follow established review procedures and the enclosed schedule to complete the reviews required by 10 CFR Parts 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Functions," and Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." Based on the information provided in your submittal and discussions during the pre-application meetings, the NRC staff has estimated that review of this SLRA will take approximately 24,000 hours to complete. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates will be communicated via separate correspondence. Milestones for hearing activities that may be needed are not included in the enclosed schedule or the estimated hours because these dates, if needed, would be established by the Commission or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board and new resource considerations would need to be developed.

The plan also relies on your responses to the NRC staff's requests for additional information, if needed, being of high quality and provided in a timely manner. A timely response is defined as 30 days from the date of the request, or within such other time as may be specified in the request in accordance with 10 CFR 2.108, "Denial of application for failure to supply information." You should also be prepared to provide high quality support in a timely and organized manner during technical audits determined necessary by the NRC staff. Delays in NRC staff's receipt of necessary information could result in changes to the plan for evaluating and processing your application, up to and including the denial of your application in accordance with the regulations or a significant delay in the schedule based on the overall workload for the NRC staff involved in the review. We request that you inform the NRC staff in writing as early as possible should potential delays arise in your support of the schedule. The NRC staff's goal is to complete the review in 22 months provided that MNGP addresses the staff's information needs in a timely manner.

Finally, we have also enclosed a copy of the notice related to your application that is being sent to the Office of the *Federal Register* for publication (Enclosure 2). This notice announces the opportunity to request a hearing and to file a petition for leave to intervene.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Jessica Hammock, Project Manager, for the safety review of the MNGP SLRA at Jessica.Hammock@nrc.gov, or Jessica Umana, Project Manager, for the environmental review at Jessica.Umana@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Smith, Brian
on 02/23/23

Brian W. Smith, Director
Division of New and Renewed Licenses
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No: 50-263

Enclosures:

1. Review Schedule
2. Copy of *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/encls: Listserv

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 – DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY–A MINNESOTA CORPORATION’S, APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

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ADAMS Accession Nos.:

ML23047A135 (Package)

ML23047A175 (Letter)

ML23047A174 (FRN)

***eConcurrence via email**

NRR-106

OFFICE	PM/NLRP/DNRL	LA/NRLB/DNRL	PM/NLRP/DNRL	PM/ERLRB/REFS
NAME	JHammock	SGreen	VThomas	JUmana
DATE	2/16/2023	02/16/2023	2/16/2023	2/17/2023
OFFICE	OGC (NLO)	BC/ERLRB/REFS	BC/NLRP/DNRL	D/DNRL
NAME	KDowling	TSmith	LGibson	BSmith
DATE	2/22/2023	2/23/2023	2/23/2023	2/23/23

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

**MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1
SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW SCHEDULE**

Milestone	Scheduled	Actual
Receive Subsequent License Renewal Application (SLRA)	1/2023	1/9/2023
Publish <i>Federal Register</i> Notice (FRN) – SLRA Availability	1/2023	1/31/2023
Publish FRN – Docketing Acceptance/Rejection and Opportunity for Hearing	2/2023	3/3/2023
Publish FRN – Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping	3/2023	
Public Meeting – Overview of Subsequent License Renewal Process and Environmental Scoping	3/2023	
Environmental Scoping Period Ends	4/2023	
Deadline for Filing Hearing Requests and Petitions for Intervention	4/2023	
Issue Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)	2/2024	
Public Meeting – Draft SEIS Meeting, If Needed	3/2024	
End of DSEIS Comment Period	4/2024	
Issue Safety Evaluation Report	3/2024	
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Full Committee Meeting	5/2024	
Issue Final SEIS	10/2024	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FRN Published – Availability of Final SEIS	10/2024	
Decision – Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation	12/2024	

**Copy of the Draft *Federal Register* Notice of
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT,
UNIT 1 – Determination of Acceptability and
Sufficiency for Docketing, Proposed Review Schedule,
and Opportunity for a Hearing Regarding the Northern
States Power Company – A Minnesota Corporation’s
Application for Subsequent License Renewal**

ADAMS Accession No. ML23047A174