



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

March 13, 2023

Reid Nelson, Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington, DC 20001-2637

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING  
PLANT, UNIT 1 SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (DOCKET  
NO. 50-263)

Dear Reid Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting a review of the environmental effects of renewing the operating license for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1 (Monticello). Monticello is operated by Northern States Power Company (NSPM) and is located in Wright County, Minnesota, on the southern bank of the Mississippi River (see Enclosure 1). NSPM submitted an application for the subsequent renewal of Monticello's operating license in a letter dated January 9, 2023, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54.

The NRC has defined subsequent license renewal to be the period of extended operation from 60 years to 80 years. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes the NRC to issue 40-year initial licenses, and upon application and approval, renew licenses for nuclear power reactors. The NRC's regulations limit these renewals to 20-year increments. Approval of a renewed license is based on the outcome of a safety and environmental review. The NRC issued the renewed Monticello operating license in 2006; the current operating license expires on September 8, 2030. The requested renewal would extend the operating license expiration date for Monticello to September 8, 2050.

In accordance with Commission Order [CLI-22-3](#), as part of the NRC's license renewal review for the Monticello subsequent license renewal application, a site-specific environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC's environmental protection regulations. These regulations also implement Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC intends to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), through the NEPA process. Accordingly, the NRC is inviting parties who may be interested in the proposed action to consult on this matter.

In the context of NHPA, the NRC has determined that the area of potential effects (APE) for this subsequent license renewal includes lands within the nuclear power plant site boundary and the transmission lines up to the first substation that may be directly (e.g., physically) affected by land-disturbing or other operational activities associated with continued plant operations and maintenance and/or refurbishment activities (see Enclosure 2 and 3). The APE may extend beyond the nuclear plant site when these activities may indirectly (e.g., visual and auditory) affect historic properties. This determination is made irrespective of land ownership or control.

Please provide any comments that you may have on the proposed undertaking within 30 days of this letter. Written comments should be submitted by mail to:

ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop: TWFN-7A60M  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by accessing <https://www.regulations.gov/> and searching for Docket ID NRC-2023-0031; directly to [MonticelloEnvironmental@nrc.gov](mailto:MonticelloEnvironmental@nrc.gov); or through the NRC staff email contact listed below.

The NRC will hold a public environmental scoping meeting on March 22, 2023, at the Monticello Community Center, 505 Walnut St., Monticello, MN 55362. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. central time and will include an NRC staff presentation of the environmental and safety review processes and opportunity to provide comments. The in-person meeting will be followed by a public environmental scoping webinar meeting on March 29, 2023. Additional information and the agenda for the meetings will be posted on the NRC's Public Meeting Schedule website at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.

The application is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The environmental report portion of the application is listed under ADAMS Accession No. [ML23009A356](#). The NRC expects to publish a draft EIS in February 2024. The NRC will forward the draft EIS to you for your review and comment. This draft EIS will include identification of historic properties, assessment of impacts, and a preliminary determination. After consideration of public comments received, the NRC plans to issue the final EIS in October 2024.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's license renewal review, please contact Ms. Nancy Martinez, at 630-829-9734 or via e-mail at [Nancy.Martinez@nrc.gov](mailto:Nancy.Martinez@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Smith, Theodore  
on 03/13/23

Theodore B. Smith, Chief  
Environmental Review License Renewal Branch  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosures

1. Area Map, 6-mile radius
2. Monticello Site Layout
3. Area of Potential Effects

cc: Listserve

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Dated: March 13, 2023

**DISTRIBUTION**

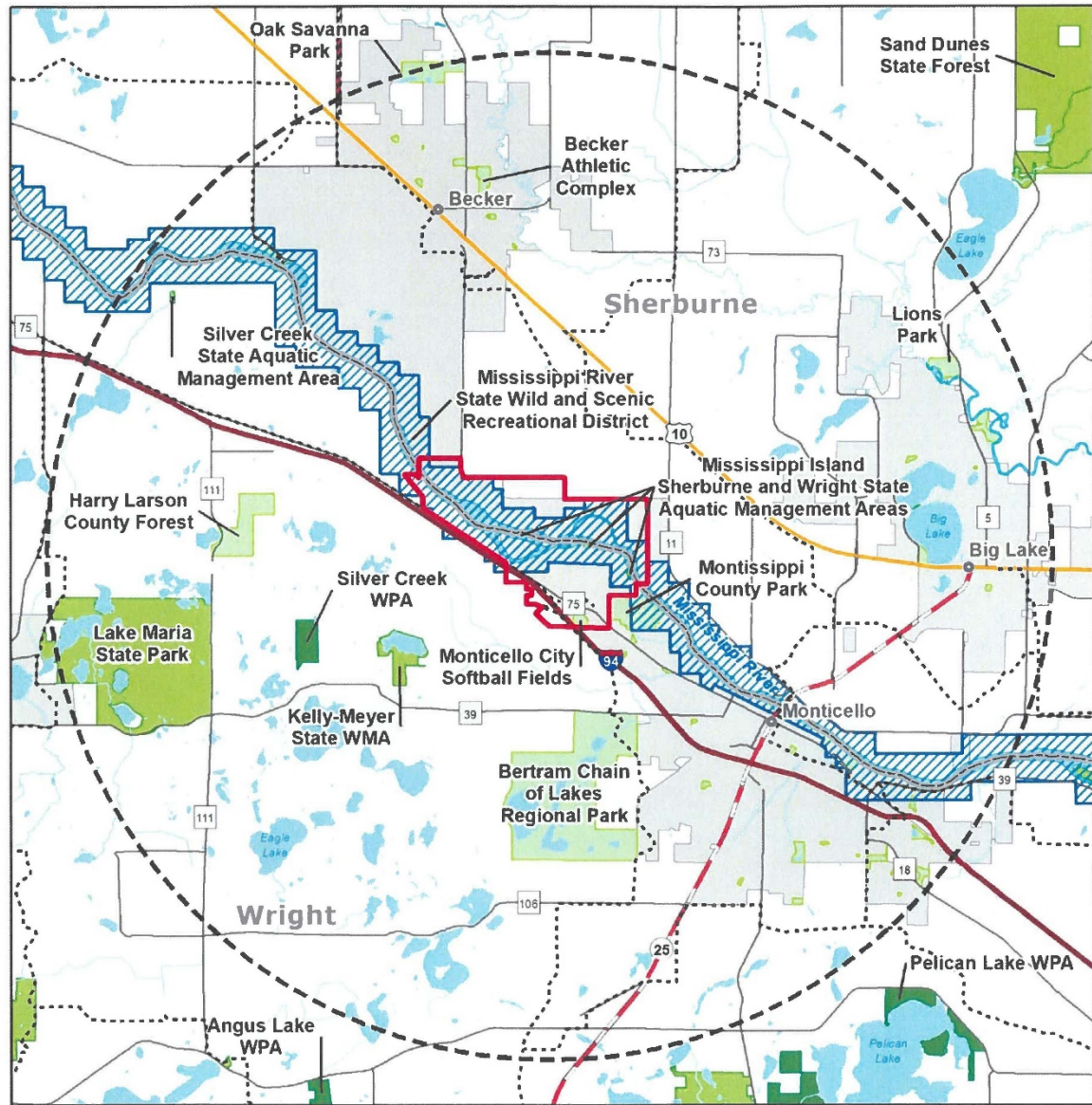
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**ADAMS Accession Nos: ML23069A274**

OFFICE	NMSS/REFS/EMRB	NMSS/REFS/ELRB	NMSS/REFS/ELRB	OGC	NMSS/REFS/ELRB
NAME	AWalker-Smith	NMartinez	JUmana	MCapentier	TSmith
DATE	3/13/2023	3/12/2023	3/13/2023	3/13/2023	3/13/2023

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

## Area Map



### Legend

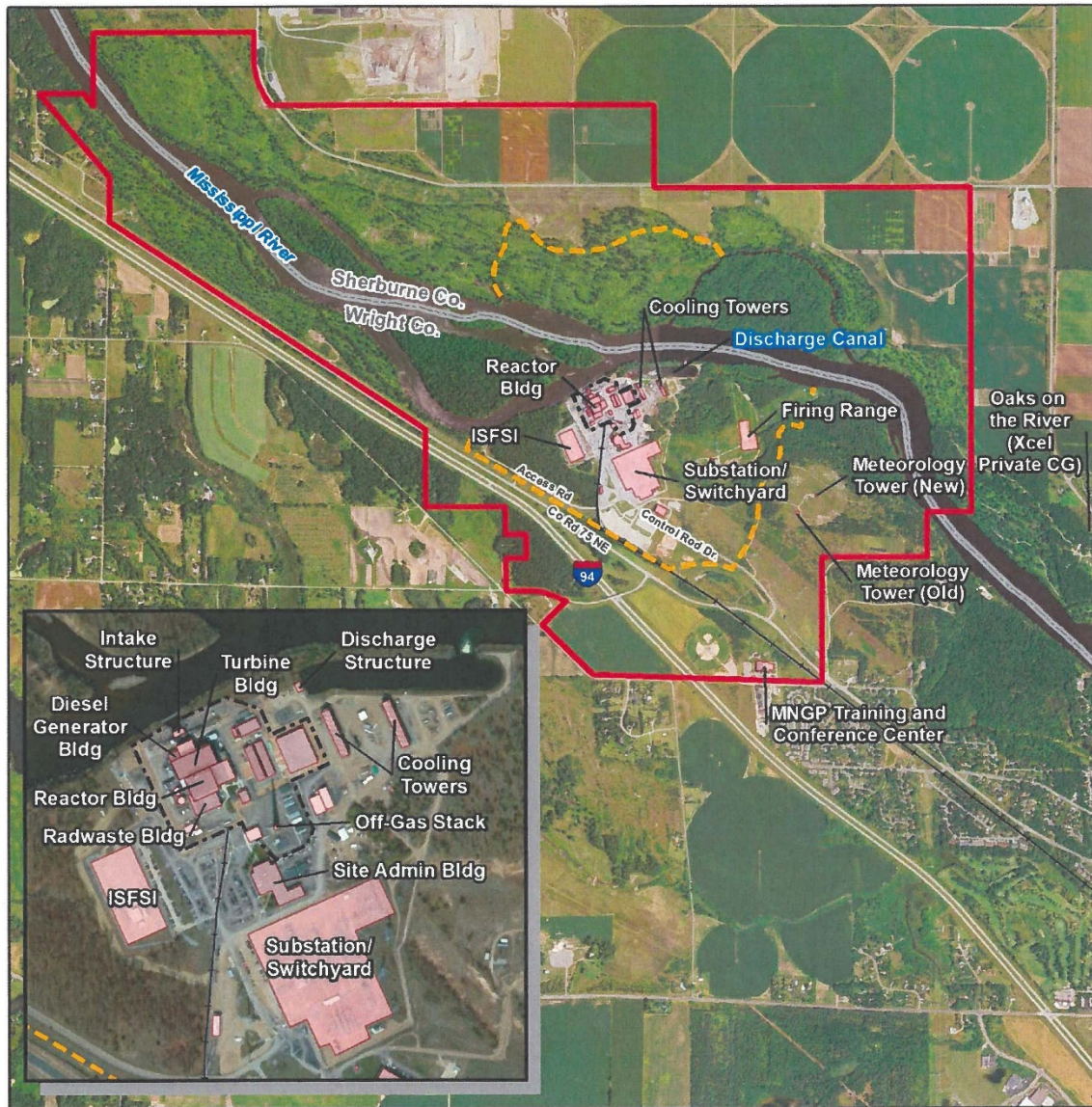
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|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| • Community            | Surface Water            | 6-Mile Radius |
| — Interstate           | Federal                  | County        |
| — U.S. Route           | State                    | Place         |
| — State Highway        | Local                    |               |
| — County Road          | Recreational District    |               |
| ..... Snowmobile Trail | Monticello Site Boundary |               |



0 1 2 Miles



## Monticello Site Layout



### Legend

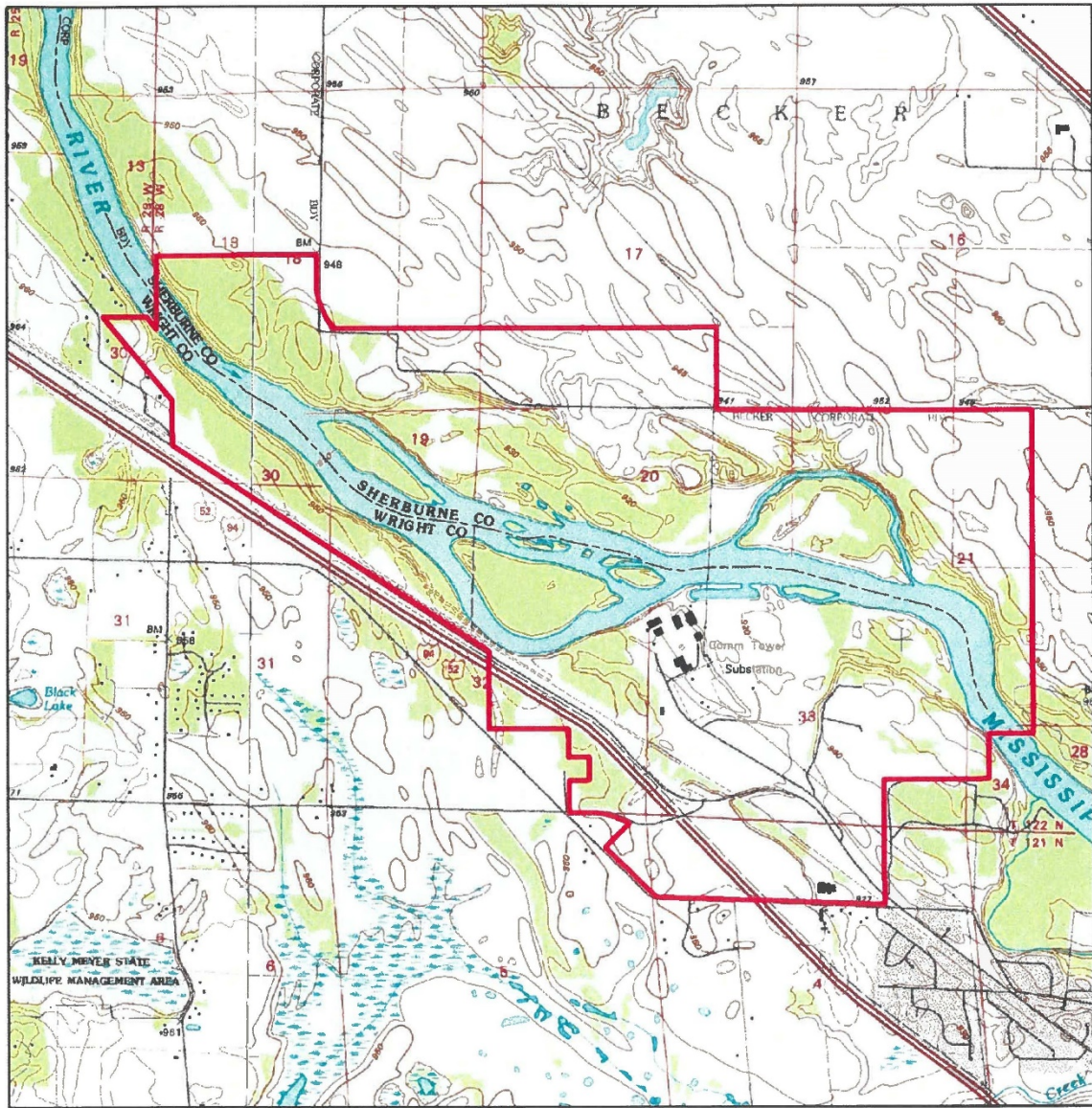
- Exclusion Area Boundary (EAB)
- - - Protected Area Fence
- Railroad
- Building/Structure
- Monticello Site Boundary



0 0.25 0.5 Miles



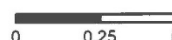
Area of Potential Effects



Legend

 Monticello Site Boundary



 Miles  
0 0.25 0.5