



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

April 24, 2024

Robert Blanchard Tribal Chairman
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861-0039

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE MONTICELLO NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL (DOCKET
NUMBER: 50-263)

Dear Tribal Chairman Robert Blanchard:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is issuing for public comment the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), NUREG-1437, Supplement 26, Second Renewal, "Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants Regarding Subsequent License Renewal for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1, Draft Report for Comment." Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1 (Monticello) is operated by Northern States Power Company (doing business as Xcel Energy) and is located in Wright County, Minnesota, on the southern bank of the Mississippi River. The NRC staff initiated consultation with your office regarding this project on March 13, 2023. In accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR) Section 800.8(c), the NRC staff has elected to use the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, process to comply with its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

The NRC staff has prepared a DEIS that evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives of the proposed action (i.e., continued operation for a period of 20 years for Monticello). As discussed in the DEIS, the NRC staff's preliminary recommendation is that the adverse environmental impacts of the subsequent license renewal (SLR) are not so great that preserving the option for energy-planning decision-makers would be unreasonable. The NRC staff has concluded that the proposed action, SLR, would not adversely affect historic properties or historic and cultural resources.

The DEIS is available via the following link:

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24102A276>.

The DEIS may also be obtained online in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under ML24102A276. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or via email to pdr.Resource@nrc.gov

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC staff is requesting your comments on the DEIS and preliminary recommendation by June 10, 2024. 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 on the DEIS 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; or through the NRC staff email contacts listed below.

The NRC staff will hold an in-person public meeting on the DEIS on May 15, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Central Time (CT) at the Monticello Community Center, South Mississippi Room, 505 Walnut St., Monticello, MN 55362. The NRC staff is also planning a virtual meeting on May 8, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CT. Both meetings will include a presentation on the preliminary findings and a transcribed public comment session. The public meeting details will be available on the NRC's Public Meeting or Schedule at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's license renewal review, please contact Nancy Martinez, by phone at 630-829-9734 or via email at Nancy.Martinez@nrc.gov, or Jessica Umana, by phone at 301-415-5207 or via email at Jessica.umana@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Moses, John
on 04/24/24

John M. Moses, Deputy Director
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-263

Cc:

Larry "Moose" Plucinski
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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