



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

May 22, 2024

Christopher R. Church  
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY – USE OF ENCRYPTION  
SOFTWARE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SAFEGUARDS  
INFORMATION (EPID L-2024-LLL-0008)

Dear Christopher Church:

By letter dated April 30, 2024 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML24121A147), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy (NSPM, the licensee) requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approve the use of Symantec Encryption Desktop, Version 10.5.1, for the electronic transmission of Safeguards information. You stated that this version of the encryption product was developed with Pretty Good Privacy Cryptographic Engine Software, Version 4.4, and complies with Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 as validated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) October 2020 FIPS 140-2 Consolidated Validation Certificate (Certificate No. 3729).

The NRC approves only those cryptographic algorithms approved by NIST. Based on the NIST validation that the encryption software complies with FIPS 140-2, the NRC staff finds that the use of Symantec Encryption Desktop, Version 10.5.1, is acceptable to use for electronic transmission of SGI in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 73.22(f)(3). As described in Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-15, newer versions of encryption software may be used without prior NRC approval, if it is documented that the newer version uses the same cryptographic module as the current version. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 73.22(f)(3), the NRC staff approves the use of Symantec Encryption Desktop, Version 10.5.1. If NIST no longer approves certain cryptographic algorithms, the NRC also does not approve use of that cryptographic algorithm.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-0680 or via e-mail at [Brent.Ballard@nrc.gov](mailto:Brent.Ballard@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Brent T. Ballard, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch III  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-263, 50-282, 50-306  
and 72-10

cc: Listserv

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DISTRIBUTION:

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YDiaz-Sanabria, NMSS

**ADAMS Accession No. ML24141A129**

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL3/PM	NRR/DORL/LPL3/LA	NSIR/DSO/ISB/BC
NAME	BBallard	SRohrer	DParsons
DATE	5/20/2024	5/21/24	5/20/2024
OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL3/BC	NRR/DORL/LPL3/PM	
NAME	JWhited	BBallard	
DATE	5/22/2024	5/22/2024	

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