

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph J. Holonich,

Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-7182 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

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[50-282 AND 50-306]

Northern States Power Company; Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to the Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-42 and DPR-60, issued to Northern States Power Company, (the licensee), for operation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plants, Unit 1 and 2, respectively, located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow license amendments for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, that resolve unreviewed safety questions associated with post-seismic cooling water source operations.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendments dated January 29, 1997, as supplemented February 11, 12, March 7, 10, and 11, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise the cooling water system emergency intake design bases. The proposed amendments contain license conditions that provide interim measures to resolve unreviewed safety questions relating to the cooling water system emergency intake line. The interim measures include the use of a dedicated operator to identify a seismic event so that nonessential cooling water loads can be stripped and the cooling water load demand can be reduced to within the capacity of the seismically qualified emergency intake pipe following a design-basis earthquake. The use of the dedicated operator will be eliminated when the licensee is able to provide a seismically qualified cooling water source either through analyses or modifications.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, the proposed amendments would not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and the proposed amendments would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents.

The changes will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plants, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 18, 1997, the staff consulted with the Minnesota State official, Mr. Michael McCarthy of the Department of Public Services, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes

that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 29, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated February 11, 12, March 7, 10, and 11, 1997, which are available for public inspection at 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, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Beth Wetzel,

Project Manager, Project Directorate III-1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC) will hold its next meeting on April 3-4, 1997 in Room T-10A1, Two White Flint North (TWFN) Building, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. both days.

The meeting will be held in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and will be open to public attendance. The NSRRC provides advice to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) on matters of overall management importance in the direction of the NRC's program of nuclear safety research. The main purpose of this meeting will be: (1) to review the reports of the PRA/I&C and Human Factors joint Subcommittee meeting, the Accident Analysis Subcommittee meeting, and the Materials and Engineering Subcommittee meeting; (2) discuss research core competencies; and (3) review Advisory Committee effectiveness.

Participants in parts of the discussion will include senior NRC staff and other RES technical staff as necessary.

Members of the public may file written statements regarding any matter