



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: May 13, 2008



Notice of Public Information Meeting

**In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy)
Certificate of Need Application and
Site Permit Application for a
Power Uprate at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-185 (Certificate of Need)
PUC Docket Number: E002/GS-07-1567 (Site Permit)**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on a proposal by Xcel Energy to increase the electrical generating capacity at its Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) in Wright County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed generating capacity increase (power uprate) and to identify issues to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) / Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

Thursday, May 29, 2008 – 7:00 PM
River City Extreme
3875 School Boulevard
Monticello, MN 55362
<http://www.rivercityextreme.com/>

The public is invited to review the certificate of need application and site permit application, learn more about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) permitting process and ask questions. Representatives from the DOC and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, alternatives and specific impacts to be addressed in the EA.

The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until **June 9, 2008**. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Bill Storm, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500,
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
bill.storm@state.mn.us

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to uprate the electrical generating capacity of MNGP from 585 megawatts electric to 655 megawatts electric (MWe). The uprate will occur in two phases – the first completed by 2009, the second by 2011. The 71 MWe uprate will be achieved by increasing the steam output of the nuclear reactor and capturing this additional output with improved electrical generation equipment and systems. Steam output will be increased through an increase in the number of new fuel assemblies replaced in the reactor core at each refueling. Equipment and systems modifications include:

- Replacement of the high pressure turbine
- Modification to the low pressure turbine
- Replacement of condensate demineralizers, condensate pumps and motor
- Upgrades of electrical power supplies and power cooling systems

All modifications, except for limited power supply upgrades, will occur within the current physical footprint of MNGP. No new structures are proposed.

The proposed power uprate will require approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). An application is pending at this time.

The proposed MNGP uprate is part of Xcel Energy's 2007 Resource Plan to meet projected base load energy and capacity needs.

Regulatory Review Process

Certificate of Need

No large energy facility can be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the PUC. The certificate of need process is the only proceeding in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage of a proposed project will be considered.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) prepares an Environmental Report (ER) on proposed large energy facilities that come before the PUC for a determination of need. The ER analyzes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and project alternatives, and addresses mitigating measures for anticipated adverse impacts. To focus the content or "scope" of the ER, the DOC conducts public hearings to gather comments, questions, and alternatives to the proposed project.

The proposed MNGP power uprate qualifies as a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421). Xcel Energy applied for a certificate of need for the MNGP uprate on February 14, 2008. On April 10, 2008, the PUC accepted the application as complete.

Site Permit

No large electric power generating plant can be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a site permit by the PUC. The site permitting process is governed by the Power Plant Siting Act and Minnesota Rules 7849.5010 – 7849.6500. Certain smaller generating plants

qualify for an alternative review process by the PUC. Under the alternative review process, DOC prepares an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and addresses mitigating measures for anticipated impacts. To focus the content or “scope” of the EA, the DOC conducts public hearings to gather comments and questions on the proposed project.

The proposed MNGP power uprate qualifies for the alternative environmental review process (Minn. Rule 7849.5500). Xcel Energy applied for a site permit for the MNGP uprate on May 2, 2008. On May 8, 2008, the PUC accepted the application as complete.

Coordinated Review Process

Under Minnesota Rule 7849.7100, a coordinated review process and hearing for a certificate of need and site permit is conducted if it is feasible, relatively more efficient, and in the public interest. For the proposed MNGP uprate, these conditions are met. Therefore, the Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a coordinated scoping and environmental review process for Xcel Energy’s certificate of need and site permit applications. DOC will scope and develop one environmental document for both applications, an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Upon completion of the EA, additional public hearings will be held. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. The hearing for the certificate of need application will be a contested case hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ALJ will issue a report containing findings, conclusions, and a recommendation on whether the PUC should issue a certificate of need for the proposed project. The PUC must issue a certificate of need prior to issuing a site permit. The PUC must issue a site permit within six months of accepting the site permit application.

Eminent Domain

If issued a site permit by the PUC, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 216E.12. However, as the proposed power uprate would take place within an existing Xcel Energy facility, the use of eminent domain is not anticipated.

Project Contacts and Mailing Lists

Public advisors from the DOC and the PUC have been appointed to assist persons interested in taking part in the permitting process. For more information, contact one of the persons listed below:

Department of Commerce

The DOC has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) as project manager and Ray Kirsch (651-296-7588, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us) as public advisor for the site permit proceedings. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Public Utilities Commission

The PUC has designated staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us) as its project manager and public advisor for the certificate of need proceedings. Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Xcel Energy

Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Brian Zelenak (612-330-5641, brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com). Mr. Zelenak may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, 7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Project Mailing Lists

If you would like to have your name added to the DOC project mailing list for this project, you may register on line at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19542> or contact DOC staff at the address above.

The PUC maintains a separate service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be placed on the list for this project, mail, fax or email Robin Benson at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073, robin.benson@state.mn.us.

Information Availability

Copies of the certificate of need application and site permit application are available at:

- www.xcelenergy.com (Home > About Energy & Rates > Power Generation > Monticello Uprate)
- <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/powerplants.html>

Both applications can also be viewed at the following libraries:

St. Paul Public Library
90 Fourth St. West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Minneapolis Public Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Monticello Branch Library
404 W. Walnut
Monticello, MN 55362-8840

St. Cloud Public Library
405 St. Germain
St. Cloud, MN 56301-3697