



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
Issued Date: August 14, 2008



**Notice of Public Information Meeting**

**In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy)  
Certificate of Need Applications and Site Permit Application**

**Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Extended Power Uprate and Additional Dry Cask Storage Proposals**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-509 (Certificate of Need Extended Power Uprate)**  
**PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-510 (Certificate of Need Additional Dry Cask storage)**  
**PUC Docket Number: E002/GS-08-690 (Site Permit)**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping meeting at the location listed below. Xcel Energy has filed applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Site Permit to increase the electrical generating capacity from 1650 megawatts electric to 1805 megawatts electric and for a CON for Additional Dry Cask Storage at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) near Red Wing, Minnesota.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the Xcel Energy proposals and to identify issues to study in an EIS to be prepared by OES evaluating the proposals.

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008 – 7:00 PM**  
***Red Wing Public Library***  
***Foot Room***  
**225 East Avenue**  
**Red Wing, MN 55066**  
**<http://redwing.lib.mn.us/>**

The public is invited to review the certificate of need applications and the site permit application, learn more about the Commission permitting process and ask questions. Representatives from the OES 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 EIS.

The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EIS until **October 7, 2008**.

Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Bill Storm, Project Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198

## **Project Descriptions**

**Power Uprate** - The extended power uprate (EPU) would involve increasing the amount of heat produced in the reactor, which would result in more steam being produced. Balance-of-plant changes would be made to convert the additional steam to electricity. The power uprate is proposed to be implemented during the 2013 and 2015 refueling outages for Unit 1 and Unit 2 respectively.

The major balance-of-plant modifications will include Upgrade high-pressure turbines, replace main generator rewinds, Replace generator step-up transformers, Replace moisture separator reheaters, and Upgrade isophase bus duct cooling.

Xcel Energy intends to apply to the NRC for an amendment to the Prairie Island Operating License for the proposed EPU in 2010.

**Additional Dry Cask Storage** - This project requests to increase the number of canisters stored at the existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI). The PINGP currently has State authorization for 29 canisters to store the spent fuel generated until the end of the current operating licenses in 2013 and 2014. Extending the life of the plant an additional 20 years and implementing the power uprate will require an additional 35 canisters. The concrete pads within the existing ISFSI would be expanded to hold the additional canisters. The ISFSI is currently licensed by the NRC to store 48 TN-40 casks and the proposed extension of the storage pads would be sufficient to accommodate the 16 additional casks.

## **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 Commission. 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 OES prepares an Environmental Report (ER) on proposed large energy facilities that come before the Commission 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 OES conducts public meetings to gather comments, questions, and input on alternatives to the proposed project.

The proposed PINGP power uprate qualifies as a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. 216B.2421). Xcel Energy applied for a certificate of need for the PINGP EPU on May 16, 2008. On July 22, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the certificate of need for the EPU is E002/CN-08-509.

### ***Site Permit***

The proposed EPU of the electrical generating capacity of the PINGP by 164 MW electric also falls within the definition of a Large Electric Power Generating Plant (LEPGP) in the Power Plant Siting Act and, thus, requires a Site Permit from the Commission prior to construction. Xcel Energy applied for a site permit following the full review process on August 1, 2008.

LEPGP Site Permit Applications under the full review process must provide specific information about the proposed project, applicant, an alternative site, environmental impacts, and mitigation measures (Minnesota Rule 7849.5220).

The review process begins with the determination by the Commission that the application is complete. The Commission has one year to reach a decision from the time the application is accepted. On August 14, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the site permit for the EPU is E002/CN-08-690.

#### ***Additional Dry Cask Storage Docket***

Along with its May 16, 2008, filing, Xcel Energy also filed a CON for additional dry cask storage at the existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the PINGP. This filing was pursuant to Minn. Stat. 116C.83, Minn. Stat. 216B.243, and Minn. Rule 7855.

Authorization of any additional dry cask storage or expansion or establishment of an independent spent-fuel storage facility at a nuclear generation facility in Minnesota is subject to approval of a certificate of need by the Commission pursuant to Minn. Stat. 216B.243. In any proceeding under this subdivision, the commission may make a decision that could result in a shutdown of a nuclear generating facility.

On July 15, 2008, the Commission accepted the CON application as complete (July 22, 2008 order); the docket number for the certificate of need for the Additional Dry Cask Storage is E002/CN-08-510.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for the construction and operation of a new or expanded independent spent-fuel storage installation (Minn. Stat. 116C.83). The commissioner of the Department is the responsible governmental unit for the environmental impact statement. Prior to finding the statement adequate, the commissioner must find that the applicant has demonstrated that the facility is designed to provide a reasonable expectation that the operation of the facility will not result in groundwater contamination in excess of the standards established in section 116C.76, subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (3).

#### ***Coordinated Environmental Review Process***

The Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a coordinated scoping and environmental review process for Xcel Energy's certificates of need and site permit applications (Minnesota Rule 7849.7100). DOC will scope and develop one environmental document, an EIS, for both applications.

Additionally, the OES in consultation with Commission staff has determined that further process efficiencies can be obtained by incorporating the EIS requirements for the Additional Dry Cask Storage CON process with those addressed above for the EPU CON and Site Permit approval processes.

Upon completion of the EIS, additional public hearings will be noticed and held. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments.

## **Eminent Domain**

If issued a site permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Stat. 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 OES and the Commission 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 – Office of Energy Security***

The OES has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) as project manager and Ray Kirsch (651-296-7588, [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Commission has designated staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us)) as its 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](mailto:brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com)). Mr. Zelenak may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, 7<sup>th</sup> 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=19602> or contact OES staff at the address above.

The Commission 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](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us).

## **Information Availability**

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

- [www.xcelenergy.com](http://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:

Red Wing Public Library

Hastings Public Library

315 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Ellsworth Public Library  
312 West Main Street  
Ellsworth, MN 54011

830 Vermillion Street  
Hastings, MN 55033

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