

Dr. Burl Haar – Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

In re: Docket E-002/GS-08-690
Citizen petition for establishment of a Task Force:

8-11-08

Dear Dr. Haar,

Please find our petition for the establishment of a Task Force for the purpose of scoping the EIS and siting alternatives. CURE proposes the following points in support of the creation of a task force. We submit the following points to inform OES, of our interest in a task force.

Whereas, the purpose of the uprate is to expand base load capacity at PI, other sites and other alternatives to expansion of base load capacity should be included in the EIS analysis. This would mean that a siting advisory task force could be involved in alternative size, type, timing, and locations for base load capacity. This is presumably the reason that statute requires that plant expansion beyond a certain capacity, requires a siting certificate.

Whereas, the lack of anticipated controversy and public silence cited in OES comments as a reason to not appoint a task force, is based upon an assumption from lack of response, rather than a positive determination informed by actual public engagement; and

Whereas, there are issues associated with uprates, which have been identified by OES in their comments and by the Prairie Island Community; and

Whereas, there are few public interest (NGO) resources, and no funding to assist affected and interested persons in addressing their interests and concerns; and

Whereas, there are communities located in close proximity to the PI facility that have a long history of active interest in matters pertaining to the Prairie Island Plant;

The opportunity for a site advisory task force is of the utmost importance to afford affected and interested parties the opportunity to inform, develop and address their concerns.

Our petition further requests that the task force be asked to consider both scope and siting matters, and sunset no earlier than the finish of the DEIS comment and reply period, and be extended – as statute permits – through the period relative to the charge given.

Respectfully yours,

Sigurd W. Anderson for
Communities United for Responsible Energy
CURE – P.O. Box 30 Frontenac, MN
651-345-4515

John Howe gives notice that there is citizen interest in the establishment of a Task Force for the purpose of scoping the EIS and siting alternatives. I submit the following comments in support of the creation of a task force. I would request to be included as a member of the task force.

First, I would like to address the reasons given by the OES for not recommending the creation of a Task Force.

Lack of Public Feedback - I keep in tune with my community, I read the daily newspaper, listen to the radio, and watch the news. The first time I was made aware of the Certificate of Need Application and Site Permit Application was a "Notice of Public Information Meeting," printed in the August 14, 2008 edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press on Page 4A. The notice stated that the meeting was to be held on Sept. 10, 2008. How would anyone in the community be aware of this application until such time as a public notice was given? The meeting had significant turn out with many citizens giving the OES feedback.

Lack of alternative sites - While it is true that there is a moratorium on building new nuclear facilities, this in itself does not release the OES of examining other sources for the expansion of the baseload. Including, but not limited to, examining alternates sites for the storage of additional dry casks regardless of whether Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant is selected as the choice for the baseload expansion.

Lack of Time - The commission should not make a decision whether or not a Task Force should be created based on the time constraints given to the OES. Certainly given a significant project with tremendous potential of impact to environmental and human concerns a 60 day lengthening of the time line would be in order.

Secondly, there are many potential adverse environmental concerns that should be examined more closely. Here are just two:

Additional Water Draw Down - While the proposed increase may be within the current permit, there may be times in the summer where Excel may need to exceed this amount.

Increase in Discharge Water Temperature - A four degree increase in discharge water temperature may be within the current permit, however it is noteworthy to point out the significant impact this has down stream. Last winter, was the first time (as noted by other comments at the informational hearing) local residents had witnessed Lake Pepin have open water to Lake City.

Very Truly Yours,

John Howe
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Red Wing, MN 55066
651-278-4693