



**Oral Public Comments Received on the  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Additional Spent Fuel Storage Project**

**eDockets No. CN-24-68**

**Public Meetings**

1. November 19, 2024 – Red Wing, Minnesota, 6:00 p.m.
2. November 20, 2024 – Virtual, Online Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

DEIS MEETING - 24-68 - NOVEMBER 19, 2024

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power  
Company d/b/a Xcel Energy Request for a Certificate of  
Need for Additional Dry Cask Storage at the Prairie  
Island Nuclear Generating Plant Independent Spent Fuel  
Storage Installation

PUC DOCKET NO. E-002/CN-24-68

Ignite Building in Red Wing, Minnesota

Met, pursuant to Notice, at 6:00 p.m. in  
the evening on November 19, 2024.

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 MS. JENNA NESS: Thank you, everybody,  
2 for coming here tonight and taking time out of your  
3 busy lives to come to our public meeting.

4 I'm Jenna Ness, I work for the Department  
5 of Commerce and I wrote the Draft Environmental  
6 Impact Statement for the project for additional  
7 spent fuel storage at the Prairie Island Nuclear  
8 Generating Plant.

9 We'll go over the context briefly of the  
10 plant and discuss the project. Of course the Draft  
11 Environmental Impact Statement, you might hear me  
12 say Draft EIS, that's what it is, what the next  
13 steps are, and then we'll go into questions and  
14 comments.

15 So Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
16 Plant started operating in 1973 right here in  
17 Red Wing. It includes storage for spent fuel, as  
18 you can see in the picture here. This is also  
19 called an Independent Spent Fuel Storage  
20 Installation, or an ISFSI. It's currently licensed  
21 for operation through 2024.

22 Xcel Energy is seeking to extend  
23 operation of the plant site 20 years to 2054. That  
24 would require a federal license renewal from the  
25 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the NRC.

1           This project also requires a certificate  
2           of need from the Minnesota Public Utilities  
3           Commission. And the Department of Commerce, myself,  
4           must prepare the EIS to aid in the Commission's  
5           decision on whether the project is needed.

6           Here is a picture of where the project  
7           could go. So here are the current casks, as you saw  
8           in the previous picture. Right now there are 52 of  
9           these on three pads, and the project is proposing  
10          two to three pads. So one could be here and this  
11          could be one long one or two smaller ones  
12          (indicating).

13          And the project technology I'll refer to  
14          as the NUHOMS, but that's the company, and if you  
15          need that information you can get a PowerPoint paper  
16          copy that you can grab.

17          So this new technology is horizontal  
18          storage technology. If you look at the previous  
19          picture here, these are vertical. So on these new  
20          pads, you would have these concrete storage vaults  
21          and then the casks here, or canisters, these will be  
22          called, will be transported and put into these  
23          vaults. And that would begin in 2026. And  
24          currently there's already over 1,200 of this storage  
25          type.

1                   So the EIS I prepared will aid the  
2                   Commission's decision on whether the project is  
3                   needed for the certificate of need. It's issued in  
4                   this draft form, so the public and any other  
5                   interested parties can comment on it. Let us know  
6                   anything we may have missed, that we should enhance  
7                   and improve. And then we can make adjustments for  
8                   it before the Final EIS is put out.

9                   And our table of contents in this EIS is  
10                  based on the public meetings we had back in April  
11                  and the discussions we had there and what we  
12                  normally do for these types of projects.

13                  So you can find our EIS on the website.  
14                  Like I said, you can grab a copy of the PowerPoint  
15                  if you want to type in the link, but otherwise you  
16                  can search the Commission's website here with these  
17                  docket numbers.

18                  There is a paper copy at the Red Wing  
19                  Public Library, and you can also get a printed copy  
20                  on request from the Department. There are a limited  
21                  number available. If you look here, these are quite  
22                  large documents, and they cost a lot of money.

23                  So just a summary of some of the high  
24                  points in the EIS. The non-radiological impacts are  
25                  anticipated to be minimal. The radiological impacts

1 are also anticipated to be minimal. And with NRC  
2 standards provided that the monitoring and  
3 maintenance continues until the fuel is transported  
4 off site.

5 Impacts of continued operation through  
6 2054 are also anticipated to be minimal. Those are  
7 mostly associated with cooling water from the plant.  
8 And then the other regulated radiological releases  
9 at the plant that are within NRC standards.

10 The impacts for decommissioning the plant  
11 after 2054 are anticipated to be minimal, providing  
12 monitoring and maintenance of the ISFSI continues  
13 until transportation offsite.

14 Alternatives to the project are not  
15 currently feasible, is how the EIS found that. And  
16 then alternatives to continued operation of the  
17 plant have relatively greater impacts compared to  
18 the project, and that is kind of across-the-board  
19 with land use and wildlife and cost and carbon  
20 emissions.

21 Here's kind of the timeline. If you were  
22 here back in April, we had our scoping meetings. I  
23 issued this EIS on October 31st. We're in the  
24 middle of the comment period on the Draft EIS and at  
25 the public meetings. We'll have another one

1 virtually tomorrow night, if you want to participate  
2 in that. And the Final EIS will be issued February  
3 of next year, early February, February 7th, I think  
4 is the target date. And then the Commission will  
5 make a decision on the certificate of need request.  
6 Here I have February at the earliest, but it's  
7 unlikely to be that early. We can talk more about  
8 that if you'd like.

9 Okay. There's several ways you can  
10 comment on the Draft EIS. You can make a verbal  
11 comment once this presentation is done shortly here.  
12 You can complete and submit one of the comment  
13 sheets at the front table. There is also a link  
14 online and you can just submit one there. And here  
15 is all of my contact information. Send it directly  
16 to me and it will also get recorded, and just be  
17 aware that the comment period ends December 6th at  
18 4:30 p.m.

19 All right. So we'll move in to the  
20 commenting part and questions part of the public  
21 meeting. I'm going to have to do one at a time  
22 because, as I've said, we have a court reporter  
23 here, and she needs to be able to document what you  
24 say. So please introduce your first and last name  
25 and spell it for her.



1                   We seem to have enough people here  
2                   tonight to have everybody make comments, if they  
3                   would like. And try to direct your comments and  
4                   questions to the Draft EIS. The things we would be  
5                   looking there are what needs to be clarified in that  
6                   document and is there anything that needs to be  
7                   added or edited so the Final EIS is complete and  
8                   accurate.

9                   So I think I had one person sign up. And  
10                  then of course after that person you can kind of  
11                  just raise your hand.

12                  So would Craig Edstrom like to make a  
13                  public comment?

14                  Could you come up here, please, just so  
15                  she can hear you.

16                  MR. CRAIG EDSTROM: Okay. I'm Craig  
17                  Edstrom, I'm a member of Laborers Local 563. We  
18                  represent like 14,000 members in Minnesota and North  
19                  Dakota. We do a lot of work for Xcel Energy. We've  
20                  got roughly 400 members in the workforce at Xcel at  
21                  any given time. Currently there's 25 on nights down  
22                  there at Prairie Island, so they're down there and  
23                  supporting the outage that's going on down there  
24                  right now.

25                  I just wanted to say that this is a great

1       idea. We want to be a part in helping to build the  
2       new project and get that moving in right direction.  
3       And any support we can provide, we'll be around to  
4       provide.

5               COURT REPORTER: Can you please spell  
6       your first and last name?

7               MR. CRAIG EDSTROM: Sure. It's Craig  
8       Edstrom, C-R-A-I-G, E-D-S-T-R-O-M.

9               MS. JENNA NESS: Is there anyone else who  
10      would like to make a public comment or ask a  
11      question?

12              All right. Come on up.

13              MR. NATHAN DULL: Hi. My name is Nathan  
14      Dull, N-A-T-H-A-N, D-U-L-L.

15              I am the senior field manager with the  
16      Minnesota Land and Liberty Coalition, a statewide  
17      organization made up of farmers, landowners,  
18      taxpayers, ratepayers, business and community  
19      leaders and proponents of an all the above energy  
20      future.

21              In short, we are supportive of the  
22      additional storage of the spent nuclear fuel.

23              As it pertains to the Draft EIS, a couple  
24      of things I perhaps maybe missed. Compared to the  
25      newer technology, the horizontal storage, perhaps

1       there could be some cost analysis included, whether  
2       there's additional safety features that the vertical  
3       does not offer.

4               Also, a comment on the EIS. It was noted  
5       that 22 percent of Minnesota's energy production in  
6       the year of 2022 came exclusively from the Prairie  
7       Island Nuclear Generating Plant. And we think that  
8       is incredible. And it just demonstrates the value  
9       that nuclear energy provides to the state of  
10      Minnesota and the greater midwest area.

11              Nuclear is safe, especially in the year  
12      2024. There is abundant opportunities for a new  
13      buildout, new technologies with nuclear fleets, and  
14      so we would strongly encourage the PUC, the  
15      Department of Commerce, the legislature, and the  
16      governor to work to lift the nuclear moratorium so  
17      that we can continue to work on building out the  
18      next generation of nuclear energy in the state of  
19      Minnesota to keep the lights on.

20              Thank you.

21              MS. JENNA NESS: Thank you.

22              Anybody else who would like to make a  
23      comment or ask a question?

24              Now is a good time. We have  
25      representatives from the Public Utilities

1 Commission, the Department of Commerce, and Xcel  
2 here.

3 Well, sure. And then just a reminder to  
4 spell your name, please.

5 MR. MICHAEL MURPHY: I'm Michael Murphy,  
6 M-I-C-H-A-E-L, M-U-R-P-H-Y, just like the law.

7 And I represent the International  
8 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, local union 949.  
9 Retiree on the AFL-CIO -- Minnesota AFL-CIO retiree  
10 counsel. And while I'm retired, a lot of my former  
11 co-workers of the IBEW and other unions like  
12 Laborers, et cetera, get their welfare and their pay  
13 of course for their families from the continued  
14 operation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
15 Plant. And so I would be in favor of this project  
16 and so would the members of IBEW in the continued  
17 operation of the plant. And if that means that they  
18 need additional storage, then I would be in favor of  
19 that additional storage.

20 MS. JENNA NESS: Thank you.

21 I appreciate all the comments that have  
22 been made. I'll leave it open for about 20 more  
23 seconds or so, if anyone is on the fence about it.  
24 Like I said, this is a good time to ask questions  
25 about the project. Otherwise, we'll be hanging

1           around after for a little bit as well.

2                       Okay. Well, if that's all we have for  
3           questions and comments, then that is the entire  
4           meeting.

5                       I really appreciate your time again for  
6           coming. And let me know if you need assistance with  
7           anything.

8                       (Proceeding concluded at 6:15 p.m.)

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1 DEIS MEETING - 24-68

2 Webex - November 20, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

3 BEFORE THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

4  
5 In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power  
6 Company d/b/a Xcel Energy Request for a Certificate of  
7 Need for Additional Dry Cask Storage at the Prairie  
8 Island Nuclear Generating Plant Independent Spent Fuel  
9 Storage Installation

10  
11  
12  
13 MPUC DOCKET NO. E-002/CN-24-68

14  
15  
16 Meeting held remotely via:  
17 Webex and Telephone

18  
19  
20 November 20, 2024

21  
22  
23  
24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RMR, RPR

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1 MS. JENNA NESS: Hi, everybody. Thank  
2 you for making it tonight to the virtual public  
3 meeting for the Prairie Island nuclear generating  
4 plant, and we're going to discuss their spent  
5 nuclear fuel storage project.

6 My name is Jenna Ness, and I work for the  
7 Department of Commerce. And I was the environmental  
8 review project manager for the project.

9 Next slide.

10 So we will go over the context a bit  
11 about the plant and the project as well. We'll talk  
12 about the draft environmental impact statement. You  
13 may hear me say EIS a lot, that's what I'm referring  
14 to. That is the main purpose of our meeting  
15 tonight. Then we'll go through the next steps, and  
16 then we'll turn it back to you for questions and  
17 comments.

18 Next slide.

19 So the Prairie Island nuclear generating  
20 plant started operating in 1973 in Red Wing, and it  
21 includes this independent spent fuel storage  
22 installation area that you see pictured here. This  
23 is what it looks like currently, and you may also  
24 see us refer to it as an ISFSI. And right now it's  
25 currently licensed for operation through 2034.

1                   Next slide.

2                   So Xcel Energy is seeking to extend that  
3                   operation to 2054, for another 20 years. That  
4                   requires a subsequent license renewal from the  
5                   Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a federal thing,  
6                   and then through the state, a certificate of need is  
7                   required, specifically to store the additional spent  
8                   fuel. And the Department of Commerce has to develop  
9                   an EIS to help the Public Utilities Commission make  
10                  that decision on a certificate of need.

11                 Next slide.

12                 So you saw this picture on the previous  
13                 slide of what it looks like today. The project  
14                 would be where those two red arrows are pointing.  
15                 It would be two to three concrete pads. So you see  
16                 one short one and one long area there, the long area  
17                 could be bisected into two areas or it could stay as  
18                 one long area, and that would support the project.  
19                 What you see sitting there right now are 52 casks.  
20                 You can see the third just started getting casks  
21                 stored on it, and the other two are full.

22                 And the project's new technology, we'll  
23                 refer to as the NUHOMS, and you can find that  
24                 online, too.

25                 Next page.

1                   So this technology for the project is a  
2                   horizontal storage technology. On the picture on  
3                   the left you'll see it is a concrete storage area  
4                   where the canisters would go, and then on the right  
5                   you can see the transporting mechanism for those  
6                   canisters and them getting put into those vaults.  
7                   So that's kind of how that works. It would be used  
8                   beginning in 2026, and there's over 1,200 of these  
9                   in use in the U.S. right now.

10                  Next slide, please.

11                  So the Department -- myself -- prepared  
12                  this draft EIS to aid the Public Utilities  
13                  Commission in their decision on a certificate of  
14                  need. And that EIS is issued in a draft form so  
15                  that we can get comments from the public and other  
16                  interested parties to improve the EIS and to ensure  
17                  it's complete and accurate. This EIS is based on  
18                  public input on the table of contents that we were  
19                  looking for back in April when we did scoping  
20                  meetings and had a comment period.

21                  Next page, please.

22                  You can find the EIS in a lot of  
23                  different places. There's links here to the  
24                  Department's website directly, and the Commission  
25                  also has it on their website if you know how to

1 navigate the eDockets system. Otherwise, if you're  
2 in Red Wing, there is a paper copy at the public  
3 library, and there are a limited number of print  
4 copies on request from the Department. It's just a  
5 very large document.

6 Next page, please.

7 So a high-level summary of the draft EIS:  
8 Non-radiological impacts were anticipated to be  
9 minimal, and so were radiological impacts. Those  
10 are going to be within NRC standards, provided that  
11 monitoring and maintenance of the project canisters  
12 continues until those are transported offsite.

13 The impacts of continued operation of the  
14 plant to 2054 are anticipated to be minimal. The  
15 main discussion points there that were in the EIS  
16 were around cooling water and other regulated  
17 radiological releases that are also within NRC  
18 standards.

19 Next page.

20 The impacts of using the storage areas to  
21 decommission the plant after 2054 would be minimal  
22 and -- provided that monitoring and maintenance of  
23 the ISFSI also continues. And then alternatives to  
24 the project of storing additional fuel here are not  
25 currently feasible.

1                   And alternatives to continued operation  
2                   were found to have relatively greater impacts kind  
3                   of across the board. So we're looking here at land  
4                   use, wildlife, cost, carbon emissions, that sort of  
5                   thing.

6                   Next slide.

7                   Here is a timeline. As I indicated back  
8                   in April, at number two there, we did our scoping  
9                   meetings and our comment period. I issued the draft  
10                  EIS on October 31st. Right now we're at the public  
11                  comment period and the public meeting for that draft  
12                  EIS, and that will end December 6th. We will issue  
13                  a final EIS -- a target date -- February 7th, and  
14                  then the Commission can make a decision on the  
15                  certificate of need.

16                 The integrated resource plan is also tied  
17                 to this a bit, and that is anticipated to be  
18                 complete around February or March, and there would  
19                 be a comment period for that as well. So the  
20                 Commission wouldn't likely make a decision on the  
21                 certificate of need in February. It might be in  
22                 April, but it has been known to go later at times.  
23                 And when the Commission makes their decision on the  
24                 certificate of need, they would also determine  
25                 adequacy of the EIS -- the final EIS.



1                   Next slide, please.

2                   So there's lots of ways to comment on the  
3                   draft EIS. You can, of course, make verbal comments  
4                   at tonight's meeting. We have a court reporter with  
5                   us who would record those and get those into  
6                   eDockets and into the record.

7                   You can complete a -- just a piece of  
8                   paper in the mail is just fine. You have my mailing  
9                   information here, and I can send this to the people  
10                  online that can't necessarily take a snapshot of  
11                  this at the moment. And then there is also on the  
12                  Commerce website a direct link to comments online  
13                  for the project, and just a reminder that the  
14                  comment period ends December 6th.

15                  Next slide, please.

16                  So moving into commenting for the night.  
17                  With anyone who has a question or wants to make a  
18                  public comment so it's part of the record, we're  
19                  going to have to do one person at a time. Craig is  
20                  going to help me out with someone who may indicate  
21                  in the chat or raise their hand to talk, and we're  
22                  going to try to direct our questions to the draft  
23                  EIS.

24                  Next slide, Craig.

25                  And those questions that we're mainly

1 looking for are: What needs to be clarified, what  
2 can we clarify, or what can be added or edited so  
3 the final EIS is complete and accurate?

4 And then just one more slide, Craig.

5 This is just a reminder of where your  
6 mute button is and where your chat button is. You  
7 can send a message to the host and say that you  
8 would like to make a question or a comment, and then  
9 we'll -- you'll be unmuted by the host, and you'll  
10 be able to mute and unmute yourself.

11 So anything I missed there, Craig?

12 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Yeah. For the users  
13 that are calling in, if you would like to speak, I  
14 think you need to dial \*3, and that will raise your  
15 hand and that will indicate to us that you'd like to  
16 speak.

17 MS. JENNA NESS: Thank you, I forgot  
18 about that one. Is there anyone in the queue?

19 And I see Craig is muted here.

20 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Oh, I don't see  
21 anybody that has raised their hand or asked to speak  
22 via chat --

23 MS. JENNA NESS: Okay.

24 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: -- at this time.

25 MS. JENNA NESS: We'll keep it open for a

1 bit. I'd just like to encourage people that this is  
2 a great time to ask any questions or make a general  
3 comment, whatever you're comfortable with. You can,  
4 of course, comment online or in the mail if you  
5 prefer.

6 We have representatives from Xcel Energy  
7 here and the Public Utilities Commission and the  
8 Department. So we kind of have everyone in one room  
9 all at once, and then after this, the meeting's  
10 going to be done. So I just wanted to give everyone  
11 that heads-up. So if you're kind of on the fence,  
12 feel free to make a comment.

13 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Jenna, we do have  
14 one individual who would like to speak.

15 MS. JENNA NESS: Sounds good.

16 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: The name is Henry  
17 Stelten, and I will unmute you right now. Hello.  
18 Can you hear us?

19 MR. HENRY STELTEN: Thank you for  
20 allowing me time to ask a question here. I'm  
21 curious about the -- I, unfortunately, have not had  
22 time yet to dig into the EIS in detail, but I'm  
23 curious if it accounts for the eventual transport of  
24 the spent fuel casings?

25 MS. JENNA NESS: Yes. Go ahead -- oh,

1       okay. I didn't want to cut you off there. Yes,  
2       there is a section that talks about the  
3       transportation standard by the NRC that would have  
4       to be complied with, the integrity of the canisters  
5       for transport, as well as the options that are out  
6       there currently, which aren't ready yet or certain  
7       even. But it does discuss all those options and the  
8       safety of transport, if that answers your question.

9               MR. HENRY STELTEN: It does, thank you.

10              MS. JENNA NESS: Good. And do you have  
11      any follow-up or --

12              MR. HENRY STELTEN: Not at this time,  
13      thanks.

14              MS. JENNA NESS: Okay. Thanks, Henry.

15              MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Okay. There isn't  
16      anybody else at the moment that has their hand  
17      raised and would like to speak, and I have nobody in  
18      the chat as well.

19              MS. JENNA NESS: Okay. Thanks, Craig.

20              MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Um-hmm.

21              MS. JENNA NESS: We'll sit here for a  
22      bit. Maybe people are thinking about that question,  
23      thinking about their own. You can always e-mail me  
24      as well. Maybe I can throw my e-mail in the chat.  
25      So if you need access to a link or a slide and you

1 weren't able to get it tonight, that is my e-mail.

2 Yeah. Thanks, Craig, for putting that  
3 up, too. My phone number as well.

4 All right. We'll give it about 15 more  
5 seconds here for anyone who is thinking about asking  
6 a question or making a comment.

7 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: We have a comment  
8 from Henry Stelten. Hold on one second. Henry,  
9 I've unmuted you. You can speak.

10 MR. HENRY STELTEN: Great. Thank you. I  
11 do apologize because, regrettably, I have not had  
12 time to look through the EIS. But I am curious, you  
13 know, in light of climate change, we're experiencing  
14 larger, more frequent and intense rain events, and,  
15 of course, it impacts water levels of the  
16 Mississippi and, of course, the plant. And the pads  
17 for these that are going to be stored are in  
18 floodplain. I'm curious if the EIS accounts for  
19 climate change impacts of this proposal.

20 And, also, I'm curious if you're aware of  
21 any of the work coming out of the St. Anthony Falls  
22 Lab that suggests that the floodplains -- excuse me,  
23 the floodplain boundaries will be changing as a  
24 result of sedimentation in Lake Pepin, affecting the  
25 upstream portion of the river pool 3.

1 MS. JENNA NESS: Thanks, Henry. To  
2 answer your second part, no, I was not aware of  
3 that. But the court reporter will have what you  
4 said documented for me. So that is something I can  
5 look into before we publish the final EIS, and make  
6 sure that if there's any changes there and they're  
7 creditable and relevant that we can get them  
8 incorporated.

9 As far as climate change, yes, there is a  
10 section on that in the EIS, and we discuss all those  
11 extremes that come with climate change, such as  
12 temperature and flooding. Like you were saying, the  
13 ISFSI is in a floodplain. Xcel Energy has done a  
14 report to the NRC, I believe -- correct me if I'm  
15 wrong, Xcel, to the NRC for the maximum probable  
16 flood that would occur in the ISFSI, and the results  
17 is that -- let me see if I can find this exact  
18 language here.

19 And also the NRC, that's the Nuclear  
20 Regulatory Commission, if I wasn't clear about that,  
21 they approve these technologies. Xcel is only  
22 allowed to choose a technology approved by the NRC,  
23 and they evaluate each design for all sorts of  
24 accident conditions: Tornados, flooding, and  
25 that's -- that includes all sorts of equations, and

1           it actually gets pretty complex.

2                       And let's see what the result of that  
3           study -- it says here: The ISFSI has been sited and  
4           designed so that the lowest point of potential water  
5           entry into the dry fuel storage is above the level  
6           of the probable maximum flood.

7                       So if you had more questions about  
8           climate change or I didn't quite hit what you were  
9           asking, I think you said something about the  
10          Mississippi River. And there is a lock and dam  
11          upstream from Prairie Island nuclear generating  
12          plant, and that -- you can look at historical data  
13          for that, and it has done a good job of managing  
14          floodwaters as well.

15                      Xcel, is there anything you wanted to add  
16          on that? I know I talk about your studies and  
17          reports a lot, so I just wanted to make sure I  
18          wasn't off on anything.

19                      MS. PAM PROCHASKA: No, Jenna. I think  
20          you covered it, and it is -- can be found in both  
21          the application and then the plant has safety  
22          analysis reports that covers that as well. And,  
23          again, happy to get back specific answers if that  
24          would be helpful, but I think you got it.

25                      MS. JENNA NESS: Okay. Thank you.

1                   Was there a call-in user, Craig? I saw  
2                   someone pop up, and I'm not sure if that means they  
3                   raised their hand.

4                   MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: I think that might  
5                   have been an accident by me. I was trying to click  
6                   on Henry Stelten's name, and I inadvertently clicked  
7                   on somebody else's name.

8                   But, again, if you are a call-in user and  
9                   you would like to ask a question, just hit \*3 on  
10                  your phone, please, and we can unmute you and you  
11                  can proceed to ask your question.

12                  MS. JENNA NESS: Now, we'll give people a  
13                  little bit to, maybe, figure that out and think of  
14                  any follow up.

15                  What you suggested, Henry, for additional  
16                  studies that I may have missed or if they're really  
17                  recent, that's super helpful. So I appreciate those  
18                  sort of comments as well.

19                  I'll give it just a bit longer here. Oh,  
20                  okay. Craig, if you don't mind, I'll -- oh, go  
21                  ahead.

22                  MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Yeah. Sure. It  
23                  looks like we have a comment, and I'll repeat it for  
24                  the stenographer so they can record it. Henry  
25                  Stelten said: I have a two-year-old in the



1 background, so I'll ask here. Who conducted the  
2 study that produced the maximum probable flood  
3 elevations? Is that available to the public?

4 MS. JENNA NESS: I will ask Xcel for a  
5 little backup on this. I think it is public. And I  
6 believe Xcel did it and submitted it to the NRC, and  
7 they kind of evaluate it to make sure it is  
8 adequate.

9 MS. PAM PROCHASKA: Yeah. Jenna, thank  
10 you. Yes, that's correct. It's through the NRC,  
11 and I believe it's something that we can provide if  
12 there's additional information that's wanted beyond  
13 what is in the application.

14 MS. JENNA NESS: Yeah. Henry, so if you  
15 want to e-mail me directly and have something  
16 specific -- well, it sounds like you want access to  
17 the study. I can get that for you, or get you an  
18 answer at the very least and work with you on that.

19 Great. Yeah, Henry, if you want to  
20 continue to ask in the chat, that's fine. Same with  
21 anyone else who may have some disturbances in the  
22 background. We do prefer unmuting you for our court  
23 reporter, but we'll sit on this a bit.

24 All right. I'll throw out a last call.  
25 \*3 for anyone who is on the phone. Oh, there we go.

1 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: I've got a question  
2 in the chat from Janice Erickson. They're asking:  
3 What are the potential risks?

4 MS. JENNA NESS: Of the project, I guess,  
5 potential risks -- I wonder just specifically what  
6 you're thinking about as a risk. The way we look at  
7 it in the EIS is we look at potential human health  
8 and environmental impacts, and we look at that  
9 across the board. So we look at the risk of a  
10 flood, like we were talking about, getting into the  
11 storage area. And although that may be considered a  
12 risk, most of these things are determined to have a  
13 minimal potential for impact.

14 Yes, I'm trying to recall. I think  
15 almost everything in the EIS was determined minimal,  
16 and now I'm going to pull it up to see if anything  
17 was determined more than minimal and so I can answer  
18 your question. And if that doesn't answer your  
19 question, please feel free to elaborate.

20 Yeah, I didn't find any impacts in here  
21 other than minimal. There was no moderate or major.  
22 Those are how we rate our impacts when we write  
23 these documents.

24 And I suppose if you want to look at all  
25 the potential risks that we went over in the EIS,

1       you could look at the table of contents and find a  
2       section that might interest you. Maybe you're most  
3       interested in radiological impacts or, you know, how  
4       it could impact the nearest neighbor. Or what's  
5       something we haven't talked about? Wildlife, that  
6       sort of thing, yeah.

7                   MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Janice Erickson  
8       asked another question: Also, does your plan  
9       include any traditional ecological knowledge?

10                  MS. JENNA NESS: Thanks for the question,  
11       Janice. So we did work with the Prairie Island  
12       Indian community on the environmental justice  
13       section of this EIS. They do not discuss  
14       traditional ecological knowledge.

15                  I do know with any groundbreaking  
16       activity or -- and yes, Xcel, again, please correct  
17       me if wrong, they have been and will be invited and  
18       made aware of those activities. And Xcel has been  
19       doing various collaborations with the Prairie Island  
20       Indian community as well.

21                  And if you have a specific plan, maybe  
22       you're just talking about the project in general,  
23       but if there's a plan you were talking about that I  
24       didn't hit, please let me know. If there is any  
25       specific traditional ecological knowledge I could

1 take into account, maybe there's something with the  
2 Mississippi River I didn't research and include, you  
3 know, that sort of pointing in the right direction  
4 for me could be really helpful, and I might be able  
5 to add that to the final EIS.

6 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Hey, Jenna. An  
7 additional question was asked by Janice Erickson,  
8 they are wondering: Is there an emergency plan in  
9 the process?

10 MS. JENNA NESS: So I know with the  
11 certificate of need, an emergency plan, I don't know  
12 if it was an addendum or an appendix, but that was  
13 submitted into the record and it is publicly  
14 available. If you want to see the emergency plan,  
15 just e-mail me, like I told Henry, and I'll just get  
16 you a copy so you don't have to dig through the  
17 record.

18 Thank you for all the questions. They're  
19 good questions, good comments. Kind of give it half  
20 a minute here. People can keep -- keep coming, if  
21 you would like. If your typing's taking a little  
22 bit, maybe give us -- oh, okay.

23 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: I'll just say it for  
24 the record, Janice Erickson submitted a comment that  
25 they do not have any more questions -- or they do

1 have more questions and comments but will reach out  
2 to us via e-mail. Thank you.

3 MS. JENNA NESS: That works great. Yeah.

4 And if anybody is typing something out  
5 and it's taking a while, maybe just give us some  
6 sort of indication, a quick message and then paste  
7 the whole thing that you're working on, so we don't  
8 accidentally end the meeting early here on you.

9 I put my e-mail in the chat, so I think  
10 everyone has that. My information is up on the  
11 slide right now, and just for good measure, I will  
12 put my phone number in the chat as well.

13 Well, thank you, Janice and Henry, for  
14 your good questions and comments. I appreciate it,  
15 and I appreciate everyone's time tonight, too.  
16 Everybody has busy lives, so this is an important  
17 part of the process and --

18 Oh, Craig, would you like to maybe say  
19 that last one for the record?

20 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: Sure.

21 Janice Erickson submitted a comment that says: I  
22 was not aware of the public comments starting in  
23 February.

24 MS. JENNA NESS: Yeah. So there's some  
25 different processes going along at the same time

1 here. The draft EIS is connected to the certificate  
2 of need, as in, they're the same project. The EIS  
3 will inform the certificate of need. So that  
4 comment period is open now until December 6th.

5 So what happens in February -- and,  
6 Craig, maybe -- I want to make sure I don't get my  
7 wires crossed, but in February is when the  
8 integrated resource plan for Xcel Energy's entire  
9 plan may be completed, and then the certificate of  
10 need can be decided on. So those are three  
11 different things with three different comment  
12 periods, unless I'm wrong about the IRP, Craig.

13 MR. CRAIG JANEZICH: No. Yeah, that's  
14 accurate. The Commission won't decide the CN for  
15 the project until the IRP is processed, but record  
16 development may continue. We don't have an exact  
17 date or schedule for the -- there will be public  
18 hearings. We don't have an exact date or schedule  
19 for those, but relative to the certificate of need  
20 and the adequacy of the EIS.

21 And that will occur in March 2025. We  
22 don't have an exact date for that, but it will be --  
23 there will be an ALJ convening the public meeting,  
24 and they will write a report and conclusion. That  
25 is due to the Commission on July 1st, I believe, the

1 report and conclusion.

2 After that period, it will be -- is when,  
3 at some point, the Commission will make a final  
4 decision on the certificate of need and the adequacy  
5 of the DEIS -- of the final environmental impact  
6 statement. So there will be another opportunity to  
7 comment on the overall docket with an Administrative  
8 Law Judge in March.

9 MS. JENNA NESS: Thank you, Craig.

10 And, Janice, we can get you signed up on  
11 the mailing list, if you would like, for that  
12 certificate of need as well. So you're going to,  
13 kind of, get everything that's submitted into the  
14 record, but at least you could see then when there's  
15 a notice for a comment period or the meeting at the  
16 Public Utilities Commission. And like I said, you  
17 can do that through me, if that's easiest.

18 Okay. Everybody, I am going to make a  
19 last call here. Again, I think this was a good  
20 meeting, and I'm glad you all came. Reach out to  
21 myself if you need anything else, and I guess I'll  
22 conclude the meeting with that. Everybody have a  
23 great night, and thanks, again.

24 (Public comment concluded.)  
25

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