



NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETINGS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Issued: September 14, 2021

**In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company D/B/A Xcel Energy for a
Certificate of Need for Additional Dry Cask Storage at Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant**

Docket Number: E002/CN-08-510

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) will hold scoping meetings for the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to be prepared for Xcel's Energy's proposed change in spent fuel storage technology at the Prairie Island independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The purpose of the meetings is to inform the public about Xcel Energy's proposed change in storage technology and to solicit comments on impacts and mitigation measures to study in the SEIS that will be prepared by the Department.

In-Person Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. Red Wing Ignite Community Development City Hall Annex 419 Bush St. Red Wing, MN 55066	Wednesday, October 6, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. Internet: https://tinyurl.com/3z9re47h Password: Commerce1

Meeting Information

- The same information will be presented at both meetings.
- Masks are required for the in-person meeting at the Red Wing City Hall Annex. Disposable masks will be available for attendees who do not have a mask.
- Public meetings are not open-house style meetings; we recommend that you arrive by the meeting start time.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to enter comments into the record. A public comment period will extend past the meeting dates to allow for written comments.
- Department staff will preside over the meeting. Department staff, as well as staff from Xcel Energy, will be available to answer questions about the environmental review process and the project.
- Meetings will conclude after everyone who wishes to offer comments has had an opportunity to speak.

- Comments received at the meetings and during the public comment period will be used to develop the scope of the SEIS for this project.

Virtual Meeting

- Meeting video and audio are available only via the internet.
- Logon five to 10 minutes before the meeting begins. You will be asked to join the meeting through a Webex application or through a plug-in for your web browser. You will be asked to enter your name and email address.
- Attendees will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. Your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask your question or make a comment.
- If you have questions about participating in the meeting or need assistance during the meeting, please contact David Birkholz at the Department (contact information below).

Submit Comments

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following question(s):

- *What human and environmental impacts of the proposed change in spent fuel storage technology should be studied in the SEIS?*
- *Are there specific methods to mitigate these impacts that should be studied in the SEIS?*

Comment Period: Comments will be accepted through **October 20, 2021**.
Please include the docket number (08-510) in all communications.

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St. Paul, MN 55101

Email: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Online: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

Fax: 651-539-0109

Important: Comments will be made available to the public, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally-identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Environmental Review Process

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Department will issue a scoping decision for the SEIS and a notice of SEIS preparation. Department staff will prepare a draft SEIS, which will be issued for public comment. Comments on the draft SEIS will be responded to in a final SEIS. The Department will determine the adequacy of the final SEIS. Subsequently, the

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will determine whether to approve Xcel Energy's request for a change in spent fuel storage technology.

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to use a different spent fuel storage technology in the Prairie Island ISFSI. Xcel Energy proposes to use any fuel storage cask approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the ISFSI, rather than being limited to the TN-40HT casks approved by the Commission in 2009. Xcel Energy would select from NRC-approved cask designs based on considerations including price and compatibility with future offsite storage facilities. Xcel Energy envisions that cask designs could be similar to the welded, canister design used at the Monticello nuclear generating plant ISFSI.

Xcel Energy indicates that it is not seeking to store more spent fuel than was approved by the Commission in 2009. Xcel Energy still seeks to store the 2,560 spent-fuel assemblies anticipated by the Commission's 2009 certificate of need. Xcel Energy's request is that it not be limited to storing these assemblies in 64 TN-40HT casks, but rather storing them in any NRC-approved spent fuel storage casks.

Xcel Energy indicates that its proposed change in spent fuel storage technology would likely result in lower customer costs and could potentially facilitate relatively earlier shipments of spent nuclear fuel from Prairie Island to offsite storage facilities.

Background Information

On May 16, 2008, Xcel Energy applied to the Commission for a certificate of need to expand the Prairie Island ISFSI, by 35 casks, to accommodate a total of 64 spent fuel storage casks. Department staff prepared an EIS that analyzed the proposed ISFSI expansion. At that time, Xcel Energy proposed that these casks be Transnuclear TN-40HT bolted casks. On December 18, 2009, the Commission issued a certificate of need authorizing Xcel Energy to expand the Prairie Island ISFSI by 35 casks.

On April 30, 2021, Xcel Energy requested that the Commission authorize a change in the spent fuel storage technology at Prairie Island. Xcel Energy requested that it be authorized to use any spent fuel storage technology that has been approved by the NRC rather than being limited solely to the TN-40HT cask. On May 14, 2021, the Commission issued a notice soliciting comments on Xcel Energy's proposed change in fuel storage technology and on the appropriate process for considering Xcel Energy's request.

After reviewing Xcel Energy's request, Department staff concluded that the request represented substantial new information that affects the potential environmental effects at the Prairie Island ISFSI such that the 2009 Prairie Island final EIS must be supplemented. Department staff requested that the Commission take no action on Xcel Energy's request until staff could supplement the 2009 Prairie Island final EIS in accordance with Minnesota Rule 4410.3000.

Additional Information

Draft Scoping Decision. Department staff has prepared a draft scoping decision for the SEIS. The draft scoping decision is available on the Department's website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/315/>. The 2009 Prairie Island final EIS is also available on this website.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *eDockets*, enter the year (08) and a docket number (510), and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets* and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (08-510), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Project Contacts

Department of Commerce

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us or 651-539-1841.
David Birkholz, Virtual Meeting Assistance, david.birkholz@state.mn.us or 651-539-1838.

Public Utilities Commission

Michael Kaluzniak, Energy Facilities Planner, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257.

Xcel Energy

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
Notice of Comment Period on Scope of Supplemental EIS**

Docket No. E002/CN-08-510

Dated this **14th** day of **September 2021**

/s/Sharon Ferguson

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