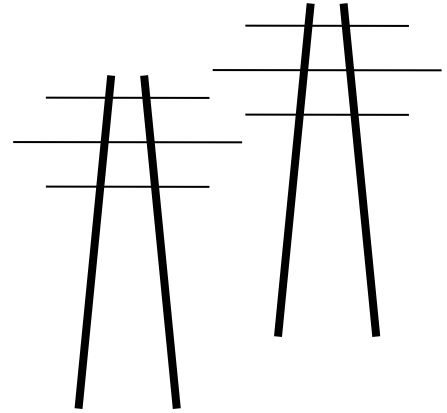


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June 24, 2022

Michael Kaluzniak
Commission Staff
Public Utilities Commission
121 – 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

via eDockets only

RE: Overland's Comments – Second Initial Comment
PUC Docket E-002/CN-08-510

Dear Mr. Kaluzniak:

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Xcel Energy request to use alternative dry cask storage technology. I notice my earlier comment was dated March 3 – it should be June 24! I am making this second comment today, again as an individual, comments made in the public interest. I am not representing any party in this docket.

I've had an opportunity to review the Comments of the Prairie Island Indian Community, and they help explain two points that are part of the trouble I'm having coming to any resolution on the nuclear mess we're in generally, and in this docket. It's similar to the notion at the turn of the century, where those opposing siting nuclear waste in Florence Township were asked, "Well, what do we do with the waste?" This is **NOT** our problem to solve. It is Xcel Energy's problem, a corporation that continues to make money with this process that is in no way sustainable.

The Commission is the regulator, and must not continue to kick this regulatory can down the road. Nuclear generation should not be allowed to continue without a viable solution to the waste conundrum, and the waste at PINGP and now Monticello must GO. This is Northern States Power/Xcel Energy's problem. I'm remembering a conversation with my mechanical engineer father, who worked on the Elk River demonstration nuclear generating plant, who said, "No one ever thought about nuclear waste, there was no plan." Yes, that much is clearly true, then and today.

First, regarding costs... cost is one of the elephants in the room. PIIC had this to say:

The Commission should require Xcel Energy to provide a general accounting of how much money Minnesota taxpayers have paid for the partial breach (of the Standard Contract), as well as all taxpayers in the U.S. Our understanding is that the U.S. taxpayers have paid well over \$9 Billion to the U.S. nuclear utilities for damages caused by the Department of Energy's failure to move spent fuel from reactor sites to a disposal site. It is estimated that the remaining liability could be close to \$31 Billion, depending on when the government can move spent fuel.¹ More clarity and transparency is needed.

The overall picture of direct and indirect costs must be addressed, building the record for consideration prior to any Commission decision regarding casks, and regarding ANY Commission decision regarding any aspect of nuclear generation and/or nuclear waste

Second, the final comment of PIIC should be carefully considered and taken to heart.

The Commission should require Xcel Energy to provide information regarding the likelihood of the TN-40 casks being transported to a federal or private storage facility. We understand that the TN-40's are licensed for transport and that the TN-40HT transportation license application is under review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) but, given their size (120 tons or 240,000 pounds), will these casks be accepted at either one of the two private storage facilities or a possible federal facility and can the Nation's rail infrastructure accommodate this weight? If not, what then?

TN-40 casks aren't going anywhere. Logically, the rail system is not designed to handle these casks. Further, the notion of shipping casks that have been stored vertically, but shipping horizontally, is nuts. These casks have had over 20 years of storage, where embrittlement and crud gathering in the bottom of the casks are well known phenomenon. To turn these casks on their side, load onto a train (presuming the rail system can handle casks of this size and weight), and that they bounce along for a thousand or more miles, yes, again, this is nuts.

Again, it's time for disclosures of plans by Xcel Energy, and time for another round of comments, if not a contested case, based on whatever it is that Xcel Energy may disclose. Any decision by the Commission other than to leave this docket open and solicit more information and additional comment is premature. No approval should be issued before the basic facts of the casks and costs are known and vetted.

Thank you for the opportunity to file comments on these important issues with long term impacts.

Very truly yours,



Carol A. Overland
Attorney at Law

cc: eDockets Electronic Service List
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