



Scott O. Arneson
County Administrator
Scott.Arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov
509 West 5th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

May 2nd, 2024

Re: Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the additional storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP)

To: Board of commissioners,

From: Scott Arneson, County Administrator

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has begun the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the additional storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP). As part of this EIS were two meetings to hear comments and concerns from members of the public. Goodhue County staff was able to attend the in-person scoping meeting held in Red Wing on April 25th. At the time we did not have any comments to make but noted a letter may be issued following.

During comments, a member of the public had issued concerns surrounding the increased spent fuel storage not equating to a different assessment of the PINGP utility property assessment done by the Department of Revenue (DOR). After inquiring to the DOR regarding this scenario, we did not hear back and wanted to ensure this concern be properly addressed within the scope of the study.

All comments for the EIS are needed by May 9th, 2024.

Recommendation: Approve the letter as written by staff to be submitted as the County submission for the EIS.

Find your Good here.



Scott O. Arneson
County Administrator
Scott.Arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov
509 West 5th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

May 2nd, 2024

Dear Ms. Ness,

Goodhue County would like to thank the Department of Commerce (DOC) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the additional storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP). Our staff was able to attend the in-person scoping meeting held in Red Wing on April 25th. At the time we did not have any comments to make but submit this letter to serve as our comments.

Xcel Energy is an outstanding private partner to Goodhue County and we welcome the continued plant operation. This plant operation breathes life into our local economy by providing well-paying jobs and creating energy for the rest of Minnesota. However, Goodhue County holds concerns surrounding the impacts of the additional storage of spent nuclear fuel on our socioeconomics.

With increased spent fuel storage, we are concerned this increased use of the special utility property will not be reflected in the taxes received by our communities. While we understand the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) conducts assessment of the utility property and not the DOC, we feel it crucial to ensure future assessments take into consideration this additional spent fuel storage. Additional tax revenue from this increased spent fuel can greatly offset other socioeconomic impacts felt within our collective community.

With increased legal challenges surrounding all other potential relocation sites for this spent fuel storage, it is clear this fuel will be remaining within Goodhue County for quite sometime. Thus, we'd hope that the scope of the study takes into consideration these socioeconomic impacts on elongated spent fuel storage in our communities and how having the utility property assessment revised would collectively address these impacts.

Best,

Scott Arneson
County Administrator

Cc:
Board of Commissioners
Steve O'Keefe, County Attorney
Lucas Dahling, Finance Director

Find your Good here.