



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Kay Kuhlmann, Council Administrator

Agenda Item No.: **5A**

Meeting Date: October 2, 2008

Action Requested: Motion to Adopt Resolution 5910 Supporting the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Extended Power Uprate & Additional Dry Cask Storage and Certificate

Background: The City has been the host community for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant for nearly thirty years. The State of Minnesota's Department of Commerce recently hosted a public informational & Environmental Document Scoping meeting in Red Wing to present information on the Certificate of Needs being evaluated by the State at the request of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The two Certificates of Needs are as follows:

1. **Minnesota Certificate of need for Extended Power Uprate – PUC Docket No. EOO2/CN-08-509**
2. **Minnesota Certificate of need for additional dry cask storage at existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation – PUC Docket Eoo2/CN-08-510**

The State of Minnesota has an obligation to review the information and take public comments. The City of Red Wing is submitting a cover letter and resolution to be included as part of the public comment.

Discussion: Four Council Members attended the September 10, 2008 meeting to hear the presentation by the State and Xcel officials and to hear the testimony from the public. The Council scheduled a discussion of the information on Monday, September 22, 2008. Research was requested on several matters and Council President Duff scheduled a special Council meeting to request Council action on the draft attached resolution in order to submit the comments prior to the October 7, 2008 deadline. I have created a resolution that addresses key issues. The issues are as follows:

- City of Red Wing believes the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant is a well run operation
- The City of Red Wing believes that nuclear energy is a reliable and safe source of energy.

- The City of Red Wing request that the city be giving “partner” status in the review/evaluation process
- City of Red Wing understands that 29 additional dry casks are being considered as part of the Certificate of Need and that the additional casks will emit additional radioactivity.
- The City of Red Wing believes that the nuclear industry can only be successful if there is a long term storage solution. 64 dry casks is more than we wish to have on a routine basis.
- The City of Red Wing has actively supported Yucca Mountain and also industry reprocessing as a partial solution.
- The City of Red Wing believes the 3-4 degree temperature increase in water temperature (mostly winter time). The process will also increase the consumption of water from the river with increased evaporation rate from approximately 39 cubic feet per second to 43 cfs.
- The City of Red Wing acknowledges that the extended power upgrade used will have a slightly larger diameter fuel pellet changing the uranium in the reactor at the beginning of the fueling cycle from 1650MWt to 1805 MWt and some radiation and radionuclitides, still within a normal range for safety.
- The City of Red Wing acknowledges that additional solid radioactive and radionuclitide waste will still be far below the safe value established.
- We also realize our ambulance may be called to transport people exposed to radiation during an accident. This is in accordance with the agreement between X-cel and our city.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that Council address the issues surrounding the certificate of need for the extended power and the additional dry cask storage and pass a motion to Adopt Resolution 5910 as written or with Council directed amendments.

Resolution No. 5910

Supporting the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Extended Power Uprate & Additional Dry Cask Storage Certificate of Need (CON)

WHEREAS, City of Red Wing believes the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant is a well run operation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing believes that nuclear energy is a reliable and safe source of energy; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing request that the City be given "partner" status in the review/evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing understands that 29 additional dry casks, raising the possibility to 64 total casks, are being considered as part of the Certificate of Need and that the additional casks will emit additional radioactivity, but this is protected by the berm; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing believes that the nuclear industry can only be successful if there is a long term storage solution; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing has actively supported Yucca Mountain and also industry reprocessing as a partial solution; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing believes the 3-4 degree temperature increase in water temperature (mostly winter time). We think it will not affect living matter, but DNR is the expert on this. The consumption of water from the river including increased evaporation rate will raise the amount of water needed from approximately 39 cubic feet per second to 43 cfs.; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing acknowledges that the extended power upgrade used will have a slightly larger diameter fuel pellet changing the uranium in the reactor at the beginning of the fueling cycle from 1650MWt to 1805 MWt. This may raise the radioactivity and radionuclitides emitted about one-half of millirem, still very much within safety standards; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing acknowledges that additional solid radioactive waste will still be far below the safe value established; and

WHEREAS, The City of Red Wing recognizes that our ambulance may be called to transport people exposed to radiation during an accident. This is in accordance with the agreement between X-cel and our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Red Wing acknowledges the impacts of the Certificates of Need as presented by the Minnesota State Department of Commerce and supports the Extended Power Uprate and the Additional Dry Cask Storage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is approved by the City Council acting in official capacity with the direction to staff to submit this resolution to the State of Minnesota prior to the October 7, 2008 deadline.

Adopted this 2nd day of October, 2008.

Carol M. Duff, Council President

ATTEST:

Kathy Seymour Johnson, MCMC
City Clerk

(seal)

Presented to the Mayor at _____ p.m. on this 2nd day of October, 2008. Approved this 22nd day of October, 2008.

Donna Dummer, Mayor