



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 6, 1997

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
 Licensing and Management Issues
 Northern States Power Company
 414 Nicollet Mall
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
 (PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2)
 (TAC NOS. M97367 AND M97368)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

By Northern States Power Company's (NSP's) application of November 27, 1996, and Combustion Engineering, Inc.'s (CE's) affidavit executed by Mr. Ian C. Rickard on November 19, 1996, NSP submitted a license amendment request to incorporate new steam generator tube sleeve designs and installation and examination techniques. In support of its application NSP submitted CE topical report CEN-629-P, Rev. 01, "Repair of Westinghouse Series 44 and 51 Steam Generator Tubes Using Leak Tight Sleeves," November 1996, and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. Your November 27, 1996, application also contained CEN-629-NP, a nonproprietary version of the above topical report.

CE stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

1. A similar product is manufactured and sold by major pressurized water reactor (PWR) competitors of CE.
2. Development of this information by CE required millions of dollars and thousands of manhours of effort. A competitor would have to undergo similar expense in generating equivalent information.
3. In order to acquire such information, a competitor would also require considerable time and inconvenience to develop an understanding of welded steam generator tube sleeve installation problems and evaluate specific examples based on test or pulled steam generator tube data and develop and qualify a steam generator tube sleeving program.
4. The information consists of a description of the steam generator tube repair process of sleeving, including qualification program results and analyses, the application of which provides a competitive economic advantage. The availability of such information to competitors would enable them to modify their product to better compete with CE, take marketing or other actions to improve their product's position or impair the position of CE's product, and avoid developing similar data and analyses in support of their processes, methods or apparatus.
5. In pricing CE's products and services, significant research, development, engineering, analytical, manufacturing, licensing, quality

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assurance and other costs and expenses must be included. The ability of CE's competitors to utilize such information without similar expenditure of resources may enable them to sell at prices reflecting significantly lower costs.

6. Use of the information by competitors in the international marketplace would increase their ability to market nuclear steam supply systems by reducing the costs associated with their technology development. In addition, disclosure would have an adverse economic impact on CE's potential for obtaining or maintaining foreign licensees.

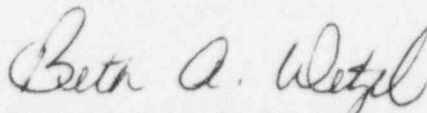
We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information.

Therefore, the version of the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

Sincerely,



Beth A. Wetzel, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc: See next page

January 6, 1997

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Sincerely,

Original signed by
Beth A. Wetzel, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc: See next page

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Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant

cc:

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