

supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated August 23, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated October 1 and 15, 1996, regarding the transfer of licenses and amendments, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, TX 77488.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of November 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
William D. Beckner,

*Project Director, Project Directorate IV-1,  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of  
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**[Docket No. 72-18-ISFSI; ASLBP No. 97-720-01-ISFSI]**

**In the Matter of Northern States Power Company (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation); Notice of Prehearing Conference**

November 1, 1996.

This proceeding concerns the application of Northern States Power Co. (NSP) for a license under 10 CFR Part 72 to possess spent fuel and other radioactive materials associated with spent fuel storage in an off-site independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) in Goodhue County, Minnesota. The license, if granted, would authorize NSP to store spent fuel in a dry storage cask system.

Notice is hereby given that, as set forth in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Memorandum and Order (Schedules for Further Filings and for Prehearing Conference) (LBP-96-22), dated October 24, 1996, a prehearing conference will be conducted beginning on Tuesday, December 17, 1996, at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Large Hearing Room, Metro Square Building, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147. The conference will commence at 9:30 a.m. on December 17, 1996, and will continue, to the extent necessary, at 9:00

a.m. on December 18 and 19, 1996, at the same location.

At the conference, the Licensing Board will consider the seven petitions for leave to intervene and requests for a hearing filed by various entities between September 25, 1996 and October 17, 1996, together with supplements to those petitions scheduled to be filed no later than November 25, 1996, including the standing of various petitioners and each of their proffered contentions. The Board will also consider potential scheduling for various aspects of the proceeding, should the Board determine that a hearing is to be authorized. Members of the public are invited to attend the conference but may not otherwise participate.

During the subsequent course of the proceeding, if a hearing is authorized, persons who are not parties to the proceeding will be invited to submit limited appearance statements, either in writing or orally, with regard to the ISFSI application, as permitted by 10 CFR 2.715(a). These statements do not constitute testimony or evidence in this proceeding but may help the Board and/or parties in their deliberations as to the boundaries of the issues to be considered. Oral statements will not be heard at the December 17-19 prehearing conference but will be heard at later sessions of the proceeding. Written statements may be submitted at any time. Written statements, or requests for oral statements, should be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch. A copy of such statement or request should also be served on the Chairman of this Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, T3 F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555.

Documents relating to this proceeding are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC 20555, and at the local public document room at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Rockville, Maryland, November 1, 1996.

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Charles Bechhoefer,

*Chairman, Administrative Judge.*

[FR Doc. 96-28583 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

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**[Docket No. 040-08948]**

**Extension of Public Comment Period on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning of the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation Cambridge, Ohio, Facility**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

On July 25, 1996, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced in the Federal Register the availability for public comment of a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts and alternatives associated with Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation's (SMC) proposed approach for decommissioning the SMC facility in Cambridge, Ohio (61 FR 38789). The end of the comment period was stated to be ninety (90) days from the date on which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notice was published in the Federal Register stating that the DEIS had been filed with the EPA. The EPA noticed availability of the DEIS on August 2, 1996 (61 FR 40414). Consequently, the end of the public comment period became October 31, 1996.

NRC has received several requests to extend the comment period for the DEIS. NRC's regulations in 10 CFR 51.73 permit the staff to grant reasonable requests for extensions of time of up to fifteen (15) days. In this case, the staff is granting a longer extension because of several requests to do so, including one from the State of Ohio. With this notice, NRC is granting a thirty (30) day extension of the comment period to November 30, 1996.

**ADDRESSES FOR THE DEIS:** A single copy of the DEIS (NUREG-1543) may be requested by those considering public comment by writing to the NRC Publications Section, ATTN.: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7082, or by calling 202-512-1800. A copy of the DEIS is available for inspection and/or copying in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L St. NW., Washington, DC 20555-0001. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Guernsey County District Library, 800 Steubenville Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725-2385.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James Kennedy, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Mail Stop T-7F27, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material