

U.S. airlines. This graphic shows at a glance the number of passenger fatalities and the time between the accidents that caused them.

Issued in Washington, DC on this 29th day of November, 1996.

Jim Hall,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 96-30936 Filed 11-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-M

Sunshine Act Meeting

ACTION: Cancellation of Oral Argument. "FEDERAL REGISTER" CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: Vol. 61, No. 224/Tuesday, November 19, 1996/Notices.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE: 3:00 p.m., November 25, 1996.

SUMMARY: The National Transportation Safety Board gives notice that the oral argument in a consolidated case pending before the Board was cancelled. The Cases, SE-13961-3, *Administrator v. Willette*, et al., involve the applicability of the Federal Aviation's Advisory Circular 120-56, "Air Carrier Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Procedures," to individual airmen and crew.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Althea Walker, (202) 314-6080.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: No early announcement of the cancellation was possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Bea Hardesty, (202) 382-6525.

Dated: December 3, 1996.

Bea Hardesty,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-31151 Filed 12-3-96; 4:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-282, 50-306, and 72-10]

Northern States Power Company, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, License Nos. DPR-42, DPR-60 and SNM-2506, Issuance of Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that the Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has issued a Director's Decision concerning a Petition dated June 5, 1995, filed by the Nuclear Information and Resource Service and the Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage (Petitioners) under § 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.206). The Petition

requested that Prairie Island Units 1 and 2 be immediately shut down and the operating licenses be suspended until the issues raised in the Petition could be resolved. The Petition was based on alleged problems with cracking of the Prairie Island steam generator tubes and reactor vessel head penetrations, use of the transfer channel between the reactor core and the fuel pool during unloading and loading of dry cask storage units, and use of the Prairie Island crane.

The Acting Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that the Petition should be denied for the reasons stated in the "Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206" (DD-96-21), the complete text of which follows this notice. In reaching this decision, the Acting Director considered the concerns expressed by the Petitioners in letters to the NRC dated June 21, 1995, February 19, 1996 and March 13, 1996. The decision and the documents cited in the decision are available for public inspection and copying in 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 Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

A copy of this decision has been filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c). As provided therein, this decision will become the final action of the Commission 25 days after issuance unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes review of the decision within that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of November, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Frank J. Miraglia,
Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

I. Introduction

On June 5, 1995, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service and the Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage (PICANS), now known as the Prairie Island Coalition (Petitioners), filed a Petition pursuant to Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.206) requesting that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) immediately suspend the operating licenses for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, operated by Northern

States Power Company (NSP or Licensee).

II. Background

As a basis for their request, Petitioners presented four concerns which are summarized as follows: (1) The Prairie Island steam generators are suffering from tube degradation and may rupture unless proper testing is conducted and corrective actions are taken; (2) the Prairie Island reactor vessel head penetrations (VHPs) have stress-corrosion cracks which, if not found and corrected, may result in a catastrophic accident involving the reactor control rods; (3) plans for loading and unloading of dry cask storage units in an emergency, which include storage of irradiated components in the fuel transfer canal, were not properly reviewed by NRC and do not satisfy NRC requirements; and, (4) the physical integrity of the Prairie Island crane used to lift the dry cask for Prairie Island's spent fuel requires physical testing and a safety analysis before future crane use following its handling of a heavy load for an extended period of time.

By a letter dated June 19, 1995, the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) denied the Petitioners' request for immediate suspension of Prairie Island Units 1 and 2 licenses. The Director stated that the NRC staff's review of the Petition did not identify any safety issues warranting immediate action at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The Director also stated that the NRC staff would issue a Director's Decision addressing Petitioners' concerns within a reasonable time.

PICANS submitted a letter to the Chairman of the NRC dated June 21, 1995, which reiterated the concerns raised in the Petition and requested an evening public hearing within the vicinity of the Prairie Island facility. In a July 12, 1995, response, the NRC staff informed PICANS that an evening public hearing was not warranted at that time but that the request would again be considered at the time of issuance of the Director's Decision.¹ PICANS was further informed that the concerns raised in the June 21, 1995, letter would be addressed in the Director's Decision.

On February 19, 1996, Petitioners filed an addendum to their Petition raising further concerns regarding steam generator tube cracking and requested that Prairie Island, Unit 1 not be allowed to return to operation until

¹ For the reasons set out in the cover letter transmitting this Decision, the NRC staff has again determined that an evening public hearing is not warranted.