

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory  
Engineering, Environmental and  
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics*

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May 8, 2009

William Cole Storm, Project Manager  
Office of Energy Security  
85 -7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Ref: Environmental Impact Statement - XCEL Energy Prairie Island  
Nuclear Generating Plant Extended Power Uprate Project, PUC Docket No.  
E002/CN-08-509, and Need for additional Dry Cask Storage, PUC Docket  
No. E002/CN-08-510.

Dear Mr. Storm:

This letter is in response to a request from citizens of the Goodhue and Wabasha Counties who cited concerns about public health and environmental impact of the proposed increase of generating capacity and storage of spent fuel on the Mississippi floodplain.

The Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory, University of Minnesota, has an international reputation and 70 years of experience in designing state of the art water quantity and quality monitoring systems. Our most recent technologies include in situ real-time measurements in aquatic environments with wireless data transfer and assessment over the Internet. The real-time data assessment is crucial in quantifying the impact of the range of emissions of power plants in the environment. The new technology provides data transparency and can be made readily available to the public, policy makers, and plant operators.

Our laboratory will be happy to take the lead in this interesting initiative. In addition to designing the monitoring system, we will be able to transfer the technology to the State agencies involved in this project as well as provide training to the personnel who may be engaged in data interpretation.

Sincerely,



Fotis Sotiropoulos, Ph.D.  
Director, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory  
James L. Record Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering  
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