



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

NUCLEAR SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency:	Minnesota. Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee.
Series Title:	Records,
Dates:	1979-1980.
Abstract:	Files documenting the actions of a citizens' review committee charged with assessing the design and operational safety of Minnesota's Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear power plants.
Quantity:	0.25 cu. ft. (1 box).
Location:	116.A.3.4

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Minutes, background materials, including a public forum audiotape, and the final report of this citizens' review committee created by Governor Albert Quie on September 21, 1979. Organized in response to a request by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA), the committee was charged with assessing the design and operational safety of Minnesota's Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear power plants. The request was made due to the March 28, 1979 nuclear reactor incident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which resulted in a mass evacuation of the area and the permanent shut-down of the reactor. Due to a reactor overheating, radioactive gasses and water were released into the air and nearby river and a tension filled week was spent attempting to prevent a full core meltdown.

Before the committee could actually meet, however, another incident occurred; on October 2, a steam generator at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant in Red Wing ruptured and a very small amount of radioactive gas was released. The committee quickly commenced meeting, holding its first meeting on October 15 and shortly thereafter hiring the firm of MHB Technical Associates to prepare an assessment plan. The committee continued meeting through September 1980 and presented its final report to the Governor in October 1980. The report recommended that a third party, not Northern States Power (NSP), which operated the facilities, or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), assess the accident probability, accident consequence, and safety assurance effectiveness of the two plants, that a citizens' review committee oversee the completion of the assessment, and that the state's Emergency Response Plan be revised and publicized. The report was then sent to the PCA for analysis and development.

RELATED MATERIALS

Related materials: Further records related to this committee can be found in the Pollution Control Agency: Nuclear Committee folder of the Gary Botzek files (cataloged separately as part of the records of Governor Albert Quie).

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Nuclear power plants—Accidents--Minnesota.
Nuclear power plants--Environmental aspects--Minnesota.
Nuclear power plants--Risk assessment--Minnesota.

Organizations:

MHB Technical Associates (San Jose, Ca.).
Minnesota. Governor (1979-1983 : Quie).
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
Monticello Nuclear Power Generating Plant (Minn.).
Northern States Power Company (Minn.).
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (Red Wing, Minn.).
Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant (Pa.).
United States. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and folder title here]. Minnesota. Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location

116.A.3.4 Minutes, October 15, 1979 - April 7, 1980. 1 folder.

Minutes of twice monthly meetings, detailing committee assignments, consultant proposals and the decision to hire MHB Technical Associates, tours of the Prairie Island and Monticello power plants, presentations concerning the Three Mile Island accident and Nuclear Regulatory Commission emergency planning, and interactions with the PCA. Minutes for May 5 - September 8, 1980 are missing.

Handouts for meetings, 1979-1980. 1 folder.

Photocopies of articles relating to nuclear power plant safety.

Final report to Governor Albert H. Quie: "A Proposal for an Assessment of the Design and Operational Safety of the Prairie Island and Monticello Nuclear Power Plants," [ca. October 1980]. 1 folder.

Public forum, recorded on 1 7/8" reel to reel tape, September 8, 1980. 1 tape.

NSP representative, Bruce A. Johnson, Administrator of Nuclear Liaison Activities, gives a statement of position in response to the NSAC report.