



Just In

January 2003

Prairie Island Nuclear Waste Storage Issues

Xcel Energy's Prairie Island facility in Red Wing, Minnesota is the only site authorized for dry cask storage in Minnesota. Nine years have gone by since the 1994 nuclear waste storage compromise between Xcel Energy, the Minnesota Legislature, environmental groups and the Mdewakanton Dakota Indian Tribe. Xcel plans to ask the 2003 Legislature for additional nuclear waste storage casks. At least 11 more casks are needed, officials say, to get them through 2013 when their current license expires. Below are some key resources the Legislative Library has on this issue.

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- ☐ SAFETY BELT AND HELMET USE IN 2002 - OVERALL RESULTS. United States Dept. of Transportation. September 2002. HE5620 .S34 G53 2002. <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/Rpts/2002/809-500.pdf>

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URBAN ISSUES

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Examples of these DVD/CD statistical and map resources include:

- Census Tract Outline Maps – PDF Files 2000 (Issued May 2002). U.S. Census Bureau (DVD)
- *LandView 5 on DVD: A Viewer for EPA, Census and USGS Data and Maps*. U.S. Census Bureau.
- *Minnesota Environmental Atlas: an Electronic Textbook*. Minnesota Planning: Land Management Information Center, 2002. (CD-ROM)
- *Minnesota Data: 2000 Metropolitan Council Aerial Photography*. Minnesota Planning: Land Management Information Center, 2002 (2 CD-ROMs)
- *2000 Inventory of State-owned Lands*. Minnesota Department of Administration, 2002. (CD-ROM)

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Just In

July 2003

Legislator Ratings by Special Interest Groups

Constituents often want to know how to find all the votes by a particular legislator, but no official compilations of voting records for Minnesota legislators exist. What can you do to help them? Special interest groups often compile voting records on bills relating to a particular topic. These partisan compilations can be helpful in determining where a legislator stands on a number of issues.

The Legislative Library has collected some of these interest group publications in print from the early 1970s to the present. The collection includes ratings from groups such as the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Minnesota AFL-CIO, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, Minnesota Concealed Carry Reform, Minnesota League of Conservation Voters, Minnesota NARAL, National Rifle Association, OutFront Minnesota, Sierra Club Northstar Chapter, the Taxpayers League of Minnesota, and many more.

Some special interest groups have made their ratings available on the Internet. Recently, the Library compiled links to these ratings in *Resources on Minnesota Issues: Legislator Voting Records and Ratings*, located at <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/ratings.asp>.

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- ☐ THE EFFECTS OF NAFTA ON U.S.-MEXICAN TRADE AND GDP. Congressional Budget Office. May 2003. HF1456.6 .M6 A76 2003. <http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=4247&sequence=0>

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Just In Just In

August 2003

Gambling in Minnesota

Legalized gambling has its proponents and its opponents but one thing that everyone can agree on is that its debate has become an annual legislative event. The 2004 Legislative Session should be no different. The Legislative Reference Library can help you get up to speed and keep you abreast of the gaming issue in Minnesota. Recent resources include:

Annual Report of the Gambling Control Board FY 2002. Minnesota Gambling Control Board. January 2003. (HV6721.M6 M56 2002)

Governor's Report on Compulsive Gambling. State of Minnesota, Office of the Governor. 2003. (RC569.5.G35 G69 2003)

Links to the World - Gambling. This subject guide to the Internet has been recently revamped and expanded. It's a great place to check for reports, studies, and statistics on gambling in Minnesota and the United States.

Williams, John. Short Subjects: Charitable Gambling. House Research. January 2002. (HN79.M6 S56 2003)

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- ☐ INDUCED ABORTIONS IN MINNESOTA: REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. Minn. Dept. of Health. July 2003. HQ 767.5 .U6 R45 2002. Minn. Doc. 03-0338. Mandated Report. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/abrpt02.pdf>

AGRICULTURE

- ☐ FARMERS' GUIDE TO MINNESOTA LENDING LAW. Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc.. June 2003. KFM5566 .A4 M64 2003. http://www.flaginc.org/pubs/mmlend/FGMLL2003_a.pdf
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September 2003

Back to School

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From the Capital to the Classroom : State and Federal Efforts to Implement the No Child Left Behind Act. Washington, D.C.: Center on Education Policy, 2003. (LC89.F76 2003)

State High School Exit Exams Put to the Test. Washington, D.C. : Center on Education Policy, August 2003. (LB3051.S73 2003) Also available online at: <http://www.cep-dc.org/highschoolexit/1/exitexam4.pdf>

Survey & Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends. Washington, D.C.: American Federation of Teachers, 2003. (2002 edition, LB2842.A87 2002) Also available online at: <http://www.aft.org/research/survey02/SalarySurvey02.pdf>

Voucher Wars: Waging the Legal Battle over School Choice. Washington, D.C. : Cato Institute, 2003. KF4137.B65 2003.

The Library's guide, "Academic Standards," includes handy links to the Minnesota content standards as they are developed. <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/grad2.asp>

Librarians can pull together reports, articles, and online materials for you on any aspect of education policy. Many education topics are available via the Library's Inside Issues magazine article tracking system. Call the reference desk if you would like to sign up for this custom alerting service or add education topics to your profile. Put our collection and expertise to use by calling 296-8338 or writing to refdesk@lrl.leg.mn.

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- ☐ Privatization Watch. Reason Public Policy Institute. Monthly.

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Just In

November 2003

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Rural Minnesota has only thirty percent of the state's population but has a greater proportion of the aging population as well as higher unemployment rates, lower wages, fewer health care services and fewer educational and economic opportunities than Minnesota's urban and suburban areas. Some recent reports that have arrived in the library about rural issues are:

2003 Rural Minnesota Internet Study: Tracking the Rise of Broadband Use in Greater Minnesota Households. St. Peter, Minn.: Center for Rural Policy and Development, 2003.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/ruralmn/pages/Publications/reports/telecom1-03.pdf>

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Addressing Diversity: Making a Difference in our Communities. St. Peter, Minn.: Center for Rural Policy and Development, 2003. <http://www.mnsu.edu/ruralmn/pages/Publications/reports/Addressing%20Diversity.pdf>

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Moscovice, Ira. *Rural Health Networks: Evolving Organizational Forms & Functions.* Minneapolis, Minn.: Rural Health Research Center, Division of Health Services Research and Policy, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, 2003.

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Understanding Job Opportunity Building Zones. St. Peter, Minn.: Center for Rural Policy and Development, 2003.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/ruralmn/pages/Publications/reports/JOBZones.pdf>

HC107.M63E449 2003

Librarians can pull together books, reports, and statistics on any rural issue or any aspect of rural development. Please call the reference desk at 296-8338 if you have any questions or would like any of the materials listed above.

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Just In

December 2003

Governor Pawlenty recently formed a Stadium Screening Committee (<http://www.stadium.state.mn.us/>) to provide information, analysis and advice in making a professional stadium proposal for the 2004 legislative session. As this issue heats up, the Legislative Reference Library can provide background and reports on this topic.

The Library has several guides to materials in our collection.

- *Resources on Minnesota Issues: Baseball Stadiums* (<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/baseball.asp>) includes a timeline of baseball stadium events in Minnesota, along with a list of relevant documents.
- *Resources on Minnesota Issues: NHL Hockey in Minnesota* (<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/hockey.asp>) discusses hockey franchises and the Xcel Energy Center.
- *Resources on Minnesota Issues: Target Center Arena and the Minnesota Timberwolves* (<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/target.asp>) includes a timeline for the Timberwolves and Target Center.
- *Resources on Minnesota Issues: Financing Professional Sports Facilities* (<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/sports.asp>) includes a list of reports that examine the economics of stadiums.

In addition, the Library has several reports from the recent proposal for a University of Minnesota / Minnesota Viking joint-use stadium project, mandated by 2002 Minnesota Laws Chapter 397, Section 18, Subdivision 4.

Librarians can pull together reports, articles, and online materials for you on any aspect of sports facilities. You can also follow stadium issues through the Library's *Inside Issues* magazine article tracking system. Save yourself time by calling 296-8338 or writing us at refdesk@lrl.leg.mn.

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