

decide how to carry out the residency requirement. Council members may decide, for example, to give new hires one year to move into St. Paul.

Last year, the Legislature authorized Minneapolis to adopt a residency requirement. The Minneapolis City Council gives new employees one year after they're hired to move into the city.

About 52 percent of the 3,500 St. Paul city employees live outside St. Paul, said House bill sponsor Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul). The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) in the Senate.

HF881/SF309*/CH570

Dept. of Economic Security

The Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training has a new moniker with a distinctly older flavor. On April 22 its name was legally changed to the Department of Economic Security — the same name the department had from 1977 to 1985, under a bill signed into law by Gov. Arne Carlson April 21.

The name change reflects the "role, mission, and responsibility" of the department, said its commissioner, R. Jane Brown, who pushed for the legislation this session. A similar bill failed last year.

The department does much more than find jobs for people and train them, said Brown, explaining the department's decision to seek a name change.

The department administers programs such as Head Start, a government education program for disadvantaged pre-schoolers, and provides help with energy bills and services to the blind.

Rep. Barb Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls) sponsored the bill in the House. Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-New Ulm) sponsored the Senate companion.

HF936*/SF961/CH483

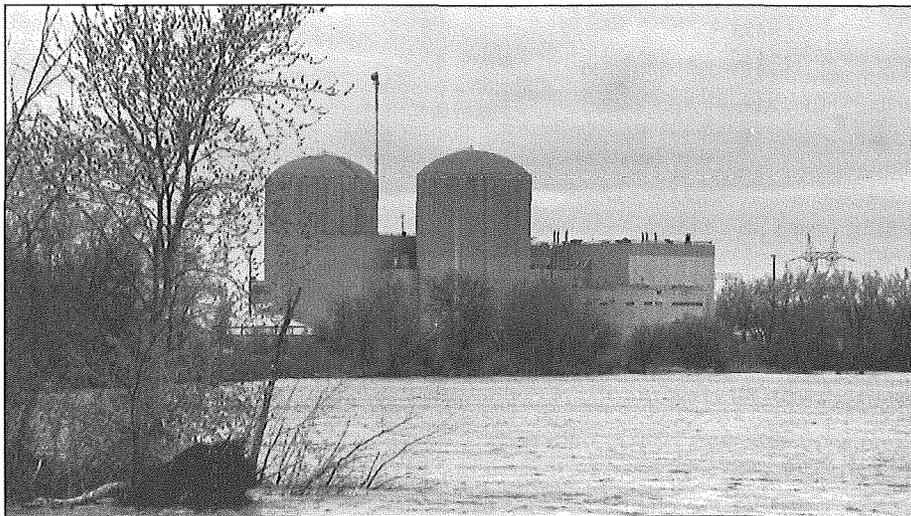
ENVIRONMENT

Prairie Island nuclear storage

Northern States Power Co. (NSP) would eventually be permitted to store radioactive waste in 17 storage casks alongside its Prairie Island power plant in Red Wing — provided it meets several conditions, under a bill signed into law by Gov. Arne Carlson May 10.

The Minnesota Legislature, on the final day of the 1994 legislative session, approved the bill granting NSP the authority to store radioactive waste.

After nearly three hours of emotional floor



Whether to allow NSP to store 17 casks of spent nuclear fuel outside its Prairie Island plant was one of the most controversial issues the Legislature faced during the 1994 session. In the end, lawmakers approved the proposal and the governor signed the bill into law. (HF2140/SF1706*/CH641)

debate May 6, the House voted 86 to 46 to allow the casks. Earlier that day, the Senate passed identical legislation, 43 to 22.

The issue pitted NSP and other energy interests against environmental groups and the power plant's neighboring Dakota (Sioux) community, which contends that above-ground storage is unsafe for humans and the environment.

The legislation sent to the governor was a House-Senate conference committee report that emerged between widely different legislative visions on how to chart the state's energy future.

Under the House version of the legislation, NSP would have been prohibited from storing radioactive waste in above-ground casks. The Senate version permitted the power company to have 17 casks.

Under conditions outlined in the final compromise, NSP will be able to eventually acquire and fill 17 casks, provided the company invests in alternative energy and searches for a storage site away from its Prairie Island plant.

In the debate preceding the final vote, some House members said the compromise report contained too little of the House's wishes.

"This bill is not a compromise bill," said Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul). "NSP asked for 17 casks and it is getting 17 casks."

Specifically, NSP sought the Legislature's permission to transfer radioactive waste from its indoor, underwater temporary storage pool to above-ground, 17-foot-tall steel casks weighing 122 tons when fully loaded with radioactive waste.

NSP officials have stated that without dry cask storage they would have to shut down one of the two reactors at Prairie Island

within a year. With 17 of the storage casks, the utility says it can continue its Prairie Island operations until about 2001.

"This is the safest thing to do," said Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), sponsor of the House legislation. Jennings said that he was confident that NSP would eventually be able to move the radioactive casks away from the power plant and the neighboring Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Indians.

"We are going to move the casks," he said, either to another site in surrounding Goodhue County or to a proposed federal depository under Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) and other foes of NSP's plan have argued that federal efforts to develop a permanent nuclear waste repository have stalled, so there would be no assurance that any nuclear waste casks would ever leave Prairie Island.

To his colleagues who planned to vote for the legislation, Munger asked: How will you respond when your grandchildren ask why you voted for a permanent nuclear waste dump in the state?

Under the new law, the state's largest power company has permission to use five storage casks immediately, and can use 12 more if it meets certain conditions.

Four of the 12 additional casks will be available when NSP has either constructed, purchased, or has under contract an additional 100 megawatts of wind power. NSP could only get the four additional casks if it also becomes actively engaged in searching for a site away from its Prairie Island power plant, but still within surrounding Goodhue County.

In addition, the company can use eight more casks unless the Legislature enacts a law by June 1, 1999, specifically revoking a per-

mission. The Legislature could only revoke permission for the casks if, by that time NSP has not begun constructing an alternative site or if the company has not met goals outlined in the legislation regarding wind power and biomass.

The legislation signed by the governor also includes provisions requiring NSP to:

- construct and operate or purchase or contract for 225 megawatts of wind energy by Dec. 31, 1998, and an additional 200 megawatts by the end of 2002;

- construct and operate or purchase or contract for 50 megawatts of biomass energy by the end of 1998. Biomass energy is electricity generated by burning animal waste and farm-grown crops such as corn; and

- reduce by 50 percent the cost of the first 300 kilowatt hours per month purchased by low-income customers.

The waste storage issue came before the Legislature because last June the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that NSP's request for above-ground storage needed legislative approval.

Although NSP received approval for its plan from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in August 1992, the issue landed in court three months later when the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Council appealed the PUC decision.

Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the Senate bill.

HF2140/SF1706*/CH641

Harbors and feedlots

Boaters on Lake Superior will see a new harbor at Silver Bay, and farmers will receive help cleaning up their poultry and cattle feedlots, with money provided in a new state supplemental budget bill signed into law by Gov. Arne Carlson May 10.

But Carlson did line-item veto half of the projects outlined in the House-Senate compromise bill. The new law now spends \$3 million on environmental projects across the state in fiscal years 1994 and 1995. (See Vetoed Bills section.)

Projects in the new law include:

- \$1 million to complete construction of a small craft harbor at Silver Bay. Last year the project received \$1 million to acquire 25 acres of land and begin development of the harbor project;
- \$650,000 to improve state parks;
- \$850,000 to acquire land for a boat access at Lake Minnetonka;
- \$600,000 from the Department of Natural Resources game and fish fund to maintain

Timeline for NSP nuclear waste storage		
Number of casks	Conditions*	When
5	none	May 11, 1994
4 more	(1) NSP must file a license application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a storage site away from Prairie Island; and (2) NSP operates or contracts for 100 more megawatts of windpower	Dec. 31, 1996
8 more	Legislature can revoke approval for these 8 casks if NSP (1) isn't operating or doesn't have under contract 50 megawatts of biomass energy and 125 more megawatts of windpower, or (2) NSP hasn't begun construction of a waste site away from Prairie Island)	June 1, 1999 (last date the Legislature can revoke authorization for 8 casks)
Any casks in addition to the above 17	Public Utilities Commission grants permission (casks must be in exchange for a Prairie Island plant shut down)	Upon PUC approval
* Beginning Jan. 1, 1999, NSP must pay \$500,000 each year for each full cask still remaining outside its Prairie Island nuclear power plant. The money will be used to develop renewable energy sources.		

and construct snowmobile trails in fiscal year 1995;

- \$1.8 million in fiscal year 1995 to help clean up poultry and cattle feedlots. Animal waste can pollute streams. Of this amount, \$900,000 is earmarked for counties that have established feedlot programs. Counties receiving grants must match the money with a mix of their own money and in-kind contributions;
 - \$1 million to the Board of Water and Soil Resources that will allow soil and water districts to hire staff to help landowners improve conservation practices;
 - a requirement that Northern States Power Co. relocate its power lines and poles away from the Indian Mounds Park in St. Paul. The electrical utility will assume the costs involved in this project;
 - \$300,000 for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to support statewide partnerships to improve septic tank systems and storm sewers;
 - \$73,000 to the MPCA to continue a citizen lake water quality monitoring program;
 - \$750,000 to assist farmers with feedlots to implement best management practices for using animal waste as crop fertilizer instead of having the waste pollute nearby water sources;
 - \$175,000 to the Department of Agriculture for a rural loan program to improve water quality;
 - \$100,000 to the Department of Agriculture for demonstration projects on pest management; and
- The new law voids budget cuts made

earlier this year by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to balance the books of the agency's troubled game and fish fund. (See March 31, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 6.);

The DNR's game and fish fund has also been relieved from making treaty payments to the White Earth and Leech Lake Ojibwe bands, as well as reimbursements to counties for lost tax revenues on land taken for wildlife management areas. This was done in a separate bill signed by the governor May 4. (HF3032*/SF2445/CH561).

The supplemental budget bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and in the Senate by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids).

HF3215/SF2913*/CH632

Waste Management Act amended

Gov. Arne Carlson May 6 signed into law changes to the state's existing Waste Management Act and as a result banned the sale of some basketball shoes in Minnesota.

Effective May 7, the new law bans the sale of some basketball shoes with lights triggered by a mercury-activated electric switch hidden in the sole of the shoe.

The half gram of mercury in the switch can get loose and enter the atmosphere when the shoes are dumped or incinerated. Methyl mercury, the organic form of the liquid metal, can damage the nervous system.

Other sections of the new Waste Management Act, sponsored in the House by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) and in the Senate