



## **Role of Nuclear Power In our Energy Future**

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# Today's Agenda

Nuclear Policy Updates

Advanced Nuclear

Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel

State of the industry

# Nuclear Fleet update

# Xcel Energy Nuclear Generating Fleet

*Over five decades of carbon free power*

## Prairie Island Nuclear Plant



- 2 Pressurized water reactors
- Unit 1 (1973); Unit 2(1974)
- Licensed through 2033/2034
- 1,100 MW
- 800 Employees; 1,000 more during refueling

## Monticello Nuclear Plant



- 1 Boiling water reactor (1971)
- Licensed through 2050
- 671 MW
- 650 employees; 800 more during refueling

# Extending Xcel Energy Nuclear Fleet

- **Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant**
  - State Certificate of Need (CON) for 10-year extension approved August 2023
  - NRC license extension approved Dec 30, 2024
  - NRC License expires 2050
- **Integrated Resource Plan**
  - Filed Feb 2024
  - Preferred plan would extend Monticello by 10 years (to 2050), Prairie Island by 20 years (to 2053/43)
- **Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant**
  - Current operating license expires 2033/2034
  - State CON for 20-year extension filed Feb 2024
    - CON decision will follow IRP decision
  - Federal license application to extend will be filed with NRC after CON decision final in 2026

# Xcel Energy Nuclear Fleet

- Nuclear plants > 50% existing carbon-free generation and 1/3 total generation in Upper Midwest
- Nuclear fleet adds important diversity to our generation portfolio
- Critical piece of our reliability requirement > 90% capacity factors

# Advanced Nuclear

# Advanced Nuclear Reactors Vary in Size

## Advanced Reactor Sizes

### *Microreactors*

*Range: 1 MW to 20 MW*

Can fit on a flatbed truck, and are mobile and deployable.



### *Small Modular Reactors*

*Range: 20 MW to 300 MW*

Can be scaled up or down by adding more units.



### *Full-Size Reactors Range:*

*300 MW to 1,000+MW*

Can provide reliable, emissions-free baseload power.



*MW refers to one million watts of electricity.*



# Advanced Nuclear Tech Overview

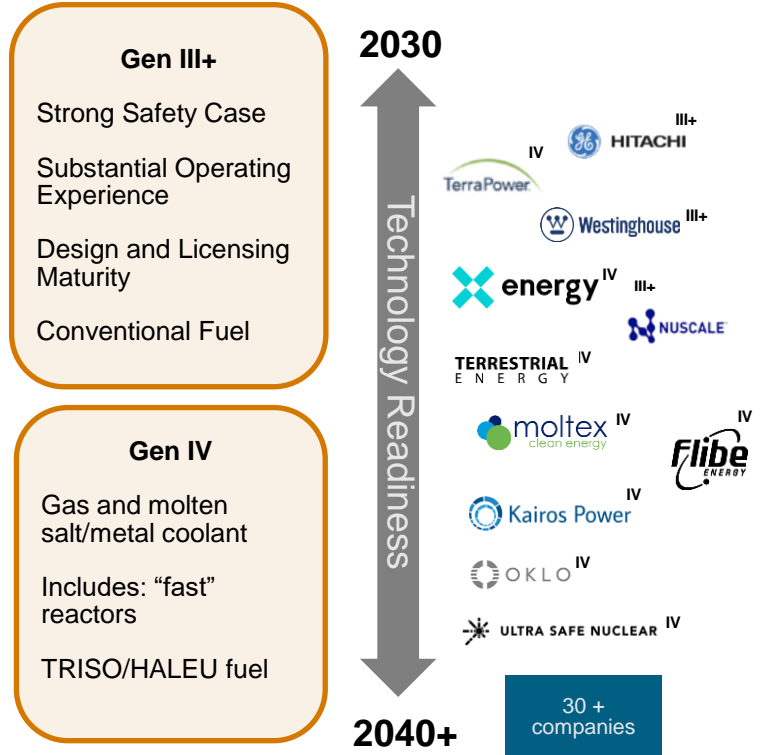
## Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)

### Zero-Carbon Dispatchable Base Load

- SMRs: Modular fission reactors generally 50 to 300 MW
- Strong federal support: DOE >\$5B over 7 years
- GE BWRX-300 under construction in Canada
- TerraPower, and X-Energy in varying stages of pilot projects
- Project development, licensing and construction timeline estimated at 10-14 years
- Micro Reactors: Factory-built, 1-20 MW, very small footprint

#### Considerations:

- Fuel, supply chain, licensing



#### Micro Reactors (< 20MW)



Oklo (shown)  
Approximately a dozen in development

#### LWR SMRs <300MW



NuScale (shown)  
GEH X-300  
Holtec SMR-160

# DOE Advanced Reactor Demonstrations

- **Reactor demonstrations** expected to result in a fully functional advanced nuclear reactor within 7 years of the award. Timeline is a challenge.

## Two designs funded by DOE Moving into next phases

April 2024 –  
TerraPower  
submits  
Construction  
Permit application  
to NRC

### TerraPower Natrium

- Sodium cooled fast reactor, combined with thermal storage
- Pilot location in Kemmerer, Wyoming. It is coal plant conversion
- Early construction activities started in 2024

January 2025 –  
first developer to  
receive state  
permit for adv  
nuclear project

### X-Energy Xe-100

- Four, 80 MWe High temperature gas reactors
- Working with Dow on Pilot
- Ontario Power Generation and X-energy pursue deployment in Canada
- MOU with Saskatchewan company SIMSA for supply chain
- Announced selection of constructors

# Notable issues to consider around adv nuclear generation

## Risk factors to consider in evaluating new nuclear technologies



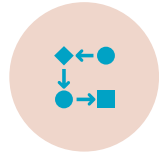
Cost (LCOE)



Licensing /  
Regulatory Risk



Construction  
Risk



Supply Chain



Fuel Supply



Spent Fuel

# Long Term Resource Planning Considerations

- Industry is under-going tremendous change with the generation fleet turning over at an accelerating pace
- Currently there are limited dispatchable generation options available long term
  - Long Duration Battery Storage, Natural Gas w/clean fuels or carbon capture, Advanced Nuclear, Geothermal+
- Advanced nuclear is gaining national support
  - Multiple utilities are identifying it as a long-term resource option
  - DOE is developing programmatic support to catalyze development

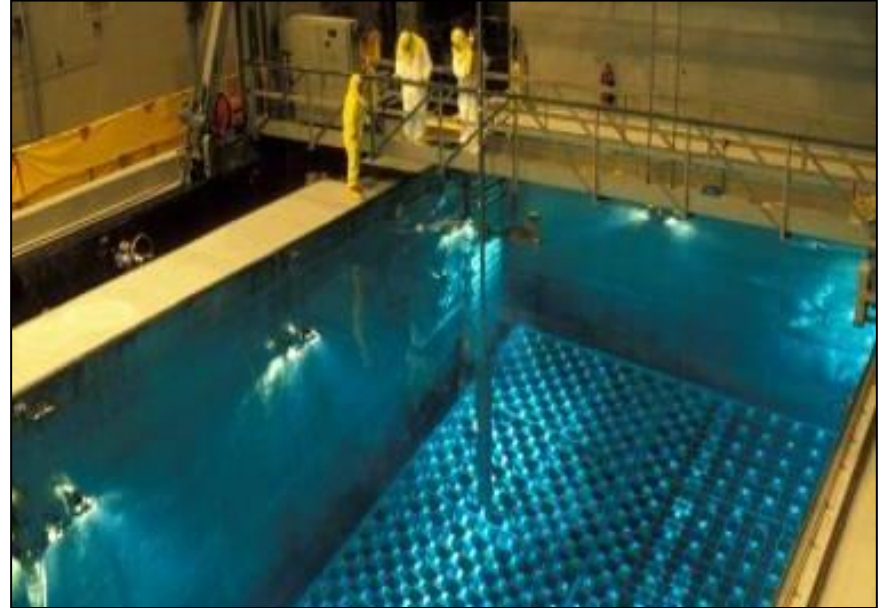
# Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel

# Spent Fuel Pools

After producing electricity for 5– 6 years, spent fuel assemblies stored in pools inside the plants. Once cooled sufficiently it is moved to dry storage systems.

Pools have 3-6 feet of concrete with stainless-steel liners.

Pools contain a leakage detection and collection system.



# Status of On-Site Storage



## **30 loaded canisters stored on site**

- Supports operations to 2030
- Mid-1980's shipped 33 casks containing ~1,000 assemblies to General Electric facility in Morris, IL



## **50 loaded casks stored on site**

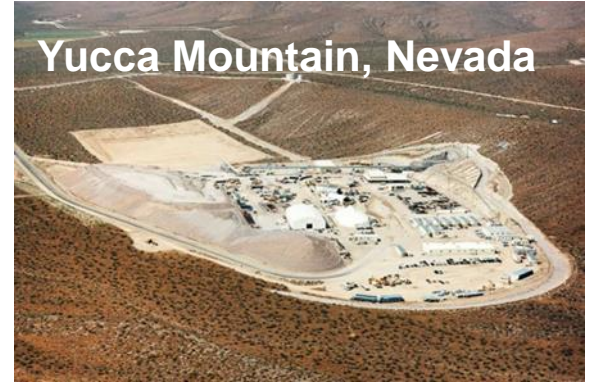
- 64 approved to support 2033/2034



# Managing Spent Nuclear Fuel

*Department of Energy responsible for permanent disposal (by law)*

- Yucca Mountain not viable (politically)
- DOE Consent Based Siting Program for interim storage
  - Increased grant program to \$26M as a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023
  - 13 grantees awarded ~\$2 Million each
  - Goal is to increase stakeholder capacity, dialogue, and education to assist the DOE to develop a community-focused consent-based approach
  - 2025 will begin next phase of program





# Consolidated Interim Storage



Holtec *Hobbs, New Mexico*



Integrated Storage Partners  
*Andrews, Texas*

- **Private Initiative**
- Received NRC licenses but legal and state challenges remain
- Will be heard by US Supreme Court in March, decision before recess

# State of the Nuclear Industry

# State of the Nuclear Industry in the US

94 operating reactors at 53 plants across the country

18.2% of US electricity production in 2023

45.5% of emission-free electricity generation in 2023

93% capacity factor

\$30.18 MWh industry average generating cost

New Vogtle Unit 4 online in 2024

# History of Nuclear Power at Xcel Energy

PLANT	TIME	TYPE	MWe	LOCATION	NOTES
Pathfinder	1966-67	BWR (Boiling Water Reactor)	59	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Test Reactor used to gain knowledge Site - Angus Anson Plant
Fort St. Vrain	1979-89	HTGR (High Temp Gas Reactor)	330	Platteville, Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Converted to Natural Gas in 1996</li> <li>• Only Nuclear Plant in CO</li> <li>• One of two HGTRs in country</li> <li>• Uranium / Thorium Fuel</li> </ul>
Monticello	1971 - Current	BWR (Boiling Water Reactor)	671	Monticello, Minnesota	Applied for second 20-year license extension to operate 80 years until 2050
Prairie Island	1973/74 - Current	PWR (Pressurized Water Reactor)	1,100	Red Wing, Minnesota	Plan to apply for second 20-year license extension to operate 80 years until 2053/54

# BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR POWER



**Clean**

**Nuclear provides more than 1,700 MW of clean energy**



**Economic**

**Nuclear provides \$1B to the local economy**



**Reliable**

**Nuclear is always on 24/7 - regardless of the weather. Can flexibly operate.**



**Safe**

**Nuclear is highly regulated and secured**

# Community Involvement

- Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear plants pay significant local taxes, and generate a billion dollars in local economic activity/yr
- The plants support over 1000 jobs directly and supports nearly 2,000 jobs indirectly
- Monticello and Prairie Island are the largest sources of carbon-free energy in Minnesota
- Nuclear employees contribute significantly to the local United Way, and are personally involved in the community

## Economic Impact of Xcel Energy's Nuclear Fleet (Monticello and Prairie Island)

**\$1 billion**

Our plants add \$1 billion to the Minnesota economy each year

**6,100**

Supports 6,100 Minnesota jobs

**\$146 million**

Generates \$146 million in local, state and federal taxes each year

**\$1 spent ▶ \$2**

Each \$1 spent at a plant generates \$2 in economic output

**\$237 million**

Generates \$237 million in disposable personal income each year

# In Summary

## **Xcel Energy's nuclear fleet is important to our customers, employees and the communities we serve**

- Nuclear provides around the clock grid stability, voltage support and overall reliability

## **Existing Nuclear is a key component of our company's future**

- Working to extend Monticello and Prairie Island part of our integrated resource plan
- Advanced nuclear could have a role in the future and we plan to stay engaged with nuclear developers

## **Finding a solution for spent nuclear fuel is a priority – especially for Xcel Energy**

- We continue to provide industry leadership on all initiatives
- Intend to work with the Department of Energy to establish an interim siting program and continue to engage with federal and state policy makers on long-term storage
- Support the Consolidated Interim Storage applicants

# The value of studying nuclear now





Q & A