



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

**5B**  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** November 25, 2025

**Title of Item:** Consider Supporting Repeal of Minnesota's Nuclear Power Moratorium

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA  <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
<b>Submitted by:</b> David Minke, County Administrator		<b>Department:</b> Administration
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> David Minke, County Administrator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 5 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>Minnesota law currently bars the Public Utilities Commission from issuing a certificate of need for construction of new nuclear power electric generating plants. This Statutory restriction was enacted in 1994 and is included in Minnesota Statutes S2168.43. Minnesota is one of about a dozen states to ban or place significant restrictions on new nuclear power plants.</p> <p>There are 95 licensed nuclear power plants in the United States which generate approximately 20 percent of the nation's electricity. Minnesota currently has three nuclear reactors at two nuclear sites, Monticello and Prairie Island (2 reactors), which generate approximately 20 percent of the state's electrical power. The Monticello plant has a federal license to operate until 2050 and a state license to operate until 2040. Prairie Island reactors have licenses to operate until 2033 and 2034. Xcel Energy intends to submit a license renewal application for Prairie Island in 2026.</p> <p>In 2025, the Association of Minnesota Counties had a legislative position in support of repealing the moratorium (attached) and several bills were introduced in the state legislature to repeal or modify the moratorium including HF 2002 (Igo) and SF 350 (Farnsworth). None of the Bills passed.</p> <p>Sherburne County is seeking support from all counties to repeal the nuclear power moratorium.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Consider the Attached Resolution supporting repeal of the moratorium.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Aitkin County Minnesota Board of Commissioners

**Resolution #20251125-xxx Supporting the Repeal of Minnesota's Moratorium on Nuclear Power Generation contained in Minnesota Statutes §216B.243 Subd. 3b**

WHEREAS, Minnesota statute 216B.1691 Subd. 2(g) requires 100 percent carbon free electricity production by 2040;

WHEREAS, Electrical power in Minnesota is currently 33 percent renewable and 53 percent carbon free, with approximately 20 percent generated by nuclear power;

WHEREAS, lifting this 30-year-old moratorium a step in securing the affordable, clean, and reliable energy Minnesotans needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports the repeal of the Moratorium on Nuclear Power Generation contained in Minnesota Statutes §216B.243 Subd. 3b; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Aitkin County encourages the State of Minnesota to engage with all stakeholders, including Minnesota's American Indian Communities to identify and review concerns regarding siting and operation of nuclear power facilities and the safe handling, transportation, and storage of waste materials.

Adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2025 By The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners.

Attest:

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By: J. Mark Wedel  
Its County Board Chair

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By: David J. Minke, County Administrator  
Its Clerk to the County Board