**Schools, City, Prairie Island & County Analysis**

**Schools**

* Power plant closures have significant financial impacts on local schools.
* Total overall impact of scheduled power plant closures on the host community school districts are estimated at more than $47,000,000.
* Any decline in kids attending schools or decrease funding is significant to the school district. In several communities, the impact is more than 10%, up to a high of roughly 40% in Monticello, Red Wing, and Becker school districts. Funding shortfalls at this level would be catastrophic to the school district. PIIC student attend Red Wing schools.
* Without assistance from the State with backfilling, it is likely cuts to schools will occur. Historically in Minnesota, cuts in school districts have equated to fewer teachers, reduced class offerings to students, less activities, less staff, etc. All which impact the education of the children.
* When businesses close, people move which reduces the number of kids in the schools, which further reduces funding. Large businesses like power plants could have ripple impacts in the community closing additional businesses, impacting more kids.
* Power plant staff and the companies themselves contribute to the schools in volunteers, student mentoring, donation of funds, etc. all of which are important but cannot be quantified.

**Cities, Prairie Island and Counties**

* HUGE tax impact. Median city-level impacts represent about 40% of tax revenues; median county-level impacts represent almost 12%. One county stated in an interview that the power plant revenue loss would be catastrophic to the county and the impacted city.
* Reduced revenue from levies for many city service funds including water, sewer, HRA, EDA and Port Authority will generate additional revenue shortfalls beyond the tax impacts. Impacts on each service is different for each community.
* Ultimate revenue losses would likely be larger due to ripple effects of the loss of high paying jobs and workers.
* Concern was expressed regarding the long-term environmental legacy of the fuel – coal ash & nuclear waste.
  + Need long-term funding for hundreds of years of monitoring of sites where storage does and will occur including groundwater and adjacent land.
  + Need to plan for long-term nuclear cask storage. Including cask containment updates in the future.
  + Need for emergency plan to handle a response if casks are compromised. This includes housing, environmental, fiscal, etc.
* Growth of communities are restricted near power plants due to the environmental concerns, lack of appropriate utilities, infrastructure, and more.
* Broadband needs vary at host communities. This is similar to Minnesota as a whole.
* Infrastructure needs are important for the host community, not only for economic and community development, but also for historic parts of the community where infrastructure is near is useful life. Specific areas of infrastructure needs vary.
* Assistance to cover pre-engineering for grant applications is needed. Pre-engineering is expensive, is not covered by grants, but is needed.

Recommendations from surveys

* Multi-year transition assistance for host communities, host community school districts and their home county.
* Need for funding for long-term environmental monitoring and plans.
* Identify opportunities for grant funders to provide preference points for host communities to address needs and concerns due to plant closures.
* More, unique and creative economic tools for existing business and new businesses are needed.