

May 16, 2013

Mr. Rich Laffin  
Chair, Saint Paul HPC  
City of Saint Paul  
25 West Fourth Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Local designation of the St. Paul Gas Light Company Island Station, 380 Randolph Ave. (437 Shepard Rd.), SHPO File Number 2013-1836

Dear Mr. Laffin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced designation. It has been reviewed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §471.193, subd. 5., and 73.05 (4) of Saint Paul's Legislative Code.

Constructed in 1923-1924, the St. Paul Gas Light Company Island Station is a multi-story, industrial building made of structural steel and brick accented with stone. Crowning the building is a 289-foot-high steel smokestack. Island Station is located about two miles upstream from downtown St. Paul overlooking the Mississippi River.

Island Station was the first power plant in the Twin Cities area that utilized pulverized coal technology. It was designed by the prominent architectural and engineering firm of Toltz, King & Day. The plant is associated with St. Paul's growth and economic development during the early 1920s, particularly the response to increased demand for various electrical devices for household use. In 1925, one year after opening, Island Station was acquired by Northern States Power, which operated the facility on a standby basis until 1973, when it was decommissioned. We concur that Island Station is eligible for designation as a local landmark under Criteria 1 and 7. We also concur that Island Station is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding our assessment of this property, please contact me at 651.259.3452 or michael.koop@mnhs.org.

Sincerely,



Michael Koop  
Historic Preservation Program Specialist  
State Historic Preservation Office

cc: Amy Spong, City of Saint Paul