

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 27, 2015

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE—PNO-III-15-001

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region III staff.

Facility

Prairie Island Nuclear Plant
Northern States Power Co.
Welch, MN
Docket: 50-282
License: DPR-42

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN OF PRAIRIE ISLAND UNIT 1 DUE TO INCREASING TREND IN REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAKAGE

Prairie Island Unit 1 was shut down on January 26, 2015, to repair a leak from a seal on one of two reactor coolant pumps. The leak was identified after plant operators observed an increasing trend in the reactor coolant system leakage rate following repairs made to the reactor coolant pump seal in December. The plant shut down prior to the seal leakage reaching the licensee's administrative limit, which was lower than the 1 gallon per minute (gpm) limit specified in the Technical Specifications. The peak leakage measured was 0.596 gallons per minute. The reactor coolant pumps ensure adequate cooling of the reactor when the plant is operating.

The NRC Resident Inspectors were promptly notified and were on site to monitor the shutdown. The NRC Resident Inspectors and Region III staff will continue to monitor the activities to identify the cause of and to repair the leak, and the subsequent restart.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated. State officials have been informed.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by the NRC Resident inspectors on site who were observing the outage activities. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:00 am CDT, on January 27, 2015.

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