

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION- REGION III

May 20, 2009

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-09-003

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Prairie Island Unit 1
Northern States Power-Minnesota
Welch, Minnesota
Docket: 50-282
License: DPR-42

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED UNIT 1 SHUTDOWN

DESCRIPTION:

On May 18, 2009 at 1:05 p.m. (CDT), the Unit 1 reactor tripped after a trip of the 12 circulating water pump. The trip of the circulating water pump resulted in a condenser A/B differential pressure trip of the main turbine which in turn caused an automatic reactor trip. Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps automatically started on low steam generator level. All control rods fully inserted and the other plant equipment responded as expected. The 12 circulating water pump is one of two pumps needed to operate at full power.

The licensee is investigating the cause of the pump trip and considering options for testing the pump and plant restart.

The NRC resident inspectors are evaluating the licensee's progress.

State and local officials have been informed about the situation.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2009.

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