

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION- REGION III**

May 22, 2009

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

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 (UPDATE)

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.

On May 21, 2009, Unit 1 was restarted and synchronized to the grid. Licensee investigation of the 12 circulating pump trip identified a ground fault on the power supply cable. Repair or replacement of the circulating pump power cable is being evaluated. The reactor is currently at reduced power and the licensee plans to maintain lower power while the 12 circulating water pump cable ground is resolved.

The NRC resident inspectors observed the reactor restart.

State and local officials have been informed.

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

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on May 22, 2009.

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