

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

October 20, 2011

### PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-11-013A

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 Generating Plant, Unit 2  
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota  
Welch, Minnesota  
Docket No: 50-306  
License No: DPR-60

#### **Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND UNIT 2 UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS (UPDATE)

#### Description:

On October 20, 2011, at approximately 03:43 a.m. CDT, Prairie Island Unit 2 was restarted after a forced outage. The outage began on October 4, 2011, after one of two reactor coolant pumps (RCP) experienced seal cooling water flow that was below procedural limits. The purpose of the seal is to keep water in the reactor coolant system. In order to keep the seal intact, a continuous flow of water is required. The rate at which flow comes out of a seal has to fall within a specified range in order to keep the RCP running. The licensee proceeded to shut down, as specified by their procedures, to replace the affected seal.

The licensee replaced the seals on both the RCPs during the forced shutdown. The NRC resident inspectors monitored the plant operator response during the shutdown and the reactor coolant pump seal replacement activities. Before the reactor start-up, the NRC inspectors reviewed the evaluations and tests performed to assure the adequacy of the plant repairs. The inspectors were present in the control room to observe the Unit 2 restart.

Minnesota State officials have been informed of the plant restart. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of October 20, 2011, at 09:00 a.m. (CDT). This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

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CONTACTS: Karla Stoedter  
651/388-8209

[Karla.Stoedter@nrc.gov](mailto:Karla.Stoedter@nrc.gov)

Kenneth Riemer  
630/829-9628

[Kenneth.Riemer@nrc.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Riemer@nrc.gov)