

May 14, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-01-015

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 Nuclear Power Plant
Nuclear Management Co.
Welch, Minnesota
Docket: 50-306
License: Nuclear Management Company

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN TO PERFORM EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR
MAINTENANCE

DESCRIPTION:

On May 9, 2001, the licensee declared Unit 2's two emergency diesel generators inoperable and shut down the plant as required by the Technical Specifications to perform diesel generator maintenance. The resident inspectors monitored activities associated with the shutdown.

The diesel generators were declared inoperable after the licensee's root cause evaluation of a scuffed cylinder liner in the D6 diesel generator determined that the inoperability may have been caused by incompatibility between the fuel oil and the lubricating oil. Preliminary investigations indicate that the incompatibility could damage the engines preventing long-term operation as assumed in the plant accident analyses. The licensee replaced the lubricating oil in the two diesel generators and is investigating potential damage on the cylinder liners associated with the generators. Each of the two, Unit 2 emergency diesel generators have a total of 32 cylinders.

Unit 1 diesel generators were supplied by a different manufacturer and were not affected by the problem concerning the Unit 2 generators.

The NRC Region III has designated a three person Special Inspection Team to investigate the matter further. Team members will begin their inspection activities on Tuesday, May 15, 2001.

The State of Minnesota will be informed. The licensee is planning to issue a news release. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee.

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. CDT on May 14, 2001.

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