PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION- REGION III

August 1, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-08-007

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
Prairie Island Unit 1	___ Notification of Unusual Event
Nuclear Management Company (NMC)	___ Alert
Welch, Minnesota	___ Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-282	___ General Emergency
License: DPR-42	_x_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED UNIT 1 SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS/SPECIAL INSPECTION

DESCRIPTION:

On July 31, 2008 at 8:17a.m. the Unit 1 reactor tripped based on an overtemperature delta T (OTΔT) signal at the Prairie Island Site. At the time, one channel of the reactor trip system instrumentation was out of service for testing, and this, coupled with the OTΔT signal, caused the reactor trip.

All systems performed as expected with the exception of the turbine driven auxiliary feed water (AFW) pump which auto started but tripped 50 seconds later on low suction/discharge pressure. The licensee is continuing to investigate. All rods inserted and all other AFW system components operated as expected. Applicable emergency operating procedures were entered and completed. The plant was shutdown in accordance with station procedures.

The NRC resident inspectors and region-based inspectors are monitoring this event. The duration of the unit shutdown is expected to be approximately 72 hours.

The NRC has dispatched a Special Inspection team to the plant to review the root causes of the reactor trip and the turbine driven AFW pump issue. The team will also focus on the licensee's corrective actions and extent of condition reviews.

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

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. on August 1, 2008.

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