PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

October 5, 2011

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

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 2	__ Notification of Unusual Event
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota	___ Alert
Welch, Minnesota	___ Site Area Emergency
Docket No: 50-306	___ General Emergency
License No: DPR-60	_x_ Not Applicable

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

Description:

On October 4, 2011, at approximately 8:45 a.m. CDT, Prairie Island Unit 2 commenced a reactor shutdown due to one of two reactor coolant pumps (RCP) experiencing 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. On October 4, the water flow rate went below this pre-established limit and could not be restored. The licensee proceeded to shut down, as specified by their procedures, to replace the affected seal.

The plant is currently in a stable shutdown condition. The licensee is currently working on replacing the seal. NRC Resident Inspectors responded to the control room during the reactor shutdown and continue to monitor the repairs and assess plant conditions.

Minnesota State officials have been informed of the plant shutdown.

RIII received initial notification of this occurrence through the resident inspectors. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of October 5, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. (CDT). This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML112780483.

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