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	**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 (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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