

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

December 18, 2015

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE—PNO-III-15-011

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 Plant
Northern States Power Co.
Welch, MN
Docket: 50–306
License: DPR–60

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN OF PRAIRIE ISLAND UNIT 2 AND NOTICE OF UNUSUAL EVENT

Prairie Island Unit 2 was shut down on December 17, 2015, after the turbine automatically shut down in response to an electrical issue associated with the main generator. Shortly thereafter, two fire alarms sounded in containment. Due to the potential fire in the containment, the licensee declared a Notice of Unusual Event. Approximately, 40 minutes later, the fire alarms cleared. The licensee subsequently exited the Notice of Unusual Event after workers entered the Unit 2 containment and verified that no fire had occurred. Prior to the shutdown, Unit 2 was operating at 100% power and the electrical grid was stable. The plant responded as expected during shutdown. Prairie Island Unit 1 remains at 100 percent power.

The resident inspectors responded to the plant shut down and subsequent emergency declaration. The resident inspectors are following the licensee's response to the event. Unit 2 is shut down and in a stable condition.

The licensee is investigating the reason for the main generator electrical issue and the fire alarms inside containment. The resident inspectors are evaluating the licensee's investigation.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the staff is anticipated. Minnesota state officials have been informed.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 9:35 am CDT, on December 18, 2015.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML15352A253

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