

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-89-87 Date December 21, 1989 PAD

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: Northern States Power
Company

Prairie Island, Unit 2
Welch, MN 49043

Docket No. 50-306

Licensee Emergency
Classification:

☐ Unusual Event

☐ Alert

☐ Site Area Emergency

☐ General Emergency

☒ Not Applicable

Subject: UNIT 2 REACTOR TRIP WITH PARTIAL LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER

At 2:23 a.m. (CST), December 21, 1989, while operating at 100 percent power, the reactor automatically shutdown as a result of a negative flux rate. The cause of the negative flux rate is still undetermined.

Both reactor coolant pumps and the main condenser circulation pumps lost power because their alternate power supply was not available. This was due to an electrical isolation function in the substation due to a Unit 2 generator output breaker suspected slow tripping. The cause of the failure also is unknown, but may have been weather related since the temperature at the time was -22°F.

The licensee verified that natural circulation had occurred in the reactor coolant loop.

During the event, both emergency diesel generators started, but did not load since power was not lost to the safeguards bus.

The licensee restored power to one reactor coolant pump at 6:00 a.m. and to the second pump at 6:30 a.m. thus restoring forced circulation.

Region III and NRR opened up a communications line with the plant to monitor plant conditions. Region III informed the EDO, NRR, AEOD and PA. The resident inspector was sent to the plant.

The Headquarters Duty Officer was notified of this event at 3:06 a.m. (CST), December 21, 1989.

Because of the weather the licensee is in a critical power need situation.

The State of Minnesota will be notified.

The information in this PN was discussed with the licensee.

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. (CST), December 21, 1989.

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