

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 staff on this date. *DM*

Facility: Northern States Power Company
 Prairie Island Nuclear Power Station
 Unit 1
 Docket No. 50-282
 Red Wing, MN

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 _____ Notification of Unusual Event
 _____ Alert
 _____ Site Area Emergency
 _____ General Emergency
XX Not Applicable

Subject: MINOR UNPLANNED AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY RELEASE

A small, unplanned, radioactive noble gas release (about two percent of the technical specification instantaneous limit) occurred at about 10:00 a.m. (CDT) on September 3, 1982. The total release was about 12 curies. The gases were released from the volume control tank due to a valving error which existed for about one minute before being recognized and corrected. The auxiliary building was evacuated. No significant personnel contamination occurred, although minor noble gas daughter contamination was detected on 15 workers.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information at this time because of the potential for public awareness of the incident.

The State of Minnesota was notified.

Neither the licensee nor Region III plans to issue a press release.

An ENS notification was made by the licensee. Region III (Chicago) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at approximately 10:55 a.m. (CDT) on September 3, 1982. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on September 7, 1982.

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