

March 30, 1994

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-18

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 Nuclear Power Station  
Redwing, Minnesota  
Dockets: 50-282; 50-306

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: HEIGHTENED SECURITY POSTURE

On March 29, 1994 a lobbyist for the licensee was notified by representatives of the Governor's office that a State Senator, who introduced legislation for the approval for dry cask storage of spent fuel at Prairie Island, had received a threatening call directed against himself and his family. The call was received on March 29, 1994. The anonymous caller also made a non-specific threat against "NSP facilities." At least one other state legislator and some Northern States Power (NSP) executives involved with the dry cask storage issue also received threats in the last two weeks.

The threat against the Senator was made at the time the Minnesota Senate was debating a bill that would allow Prairie Island to store spent fuel at a dry cask storage facility near the plant. The legislation was tabled, but is anticipated to be considered again today, with a vote on March 31, 1994.

President of NSP reported that the Governor's office was notified of the threat by the State Senator. The Governor's office in turn notified the National Guard and State Police. No action was apparently taken by the National Guard. The State Police began protecting the State Senator and his family. The county and city police departments each sent officers to Prairie Island as a precaution.

NSP officials notified their entire power distribution system of the non-specific threats. NSP increased security at both Prairie Island and Monticello. The licensee's security organization is attempting to get additional information on the threats made against legislators. Meetings are scheduled between NSP and the Capital Police, State Police, Governor's office, National Guard and other police agencies.

The state of Minnesota will be informed. The FBI has been notified. This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

The Senior Resident Inspector was notified of this by telephone from the on duty Shift Manager at about 8:20 p.m. on March 29, 1994. The Region III (Chicago) Director, Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards Section contacted the President of NSP. Close communication between the licensee and resident inspectors and Regional Safeguards continues. This information is current as of 9:50 a.m. March 30, 1994.

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