

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-30

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Northern States Power Co.	General Emergency
Prairie Island 1 & 2	Site Area Emergency
Red Wing, Minnesota	Alert
	Unusual Event
Docket Nos. 50-282, 50-306	X Not Applicable

Subject: DRY CASK ISSUE IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AFTER HOUSE REJECTION

The Minnesota House of Representatives on April 25, 1994, approved a bill by a vote of 104-30 to disallow the proposed dry cask storage facility for spent fuel at the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Station. The Senate had previously approved dry cask storage with certain additional conditions. The two bills will likely go to a conference committee for possible reconciliation.

The NRC has issued a license permitting the use of 40 casks for the storage of spent fuel, but the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the funding of just 17 casks. A state court subsequently ruled that Minnesota law requires legislative approval of permanent high-level radioactive waste storage facilities, including dry cask storage.

The House bill would permit reracking of the spent fuel storage pool, a provision that is prohibited by the Senate version. Both bills contain various requirements for development of alternative energy sources and other provisions.

The licensee had previously stated that it would have to shut down one unit in 1995 if the legislature did not approve dry cask storage.

There has been extensive news media coverage of the lengthy legislative debate on this issue.

This information is current as of 10 a.m. (CDT) on April 26, 1994.

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