

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. *WJA*

Facility: Prairie Island 1 & 2 Licensee Emergency Classification
 Northern States Power Co. General Emergency Site Area Emergency
 Red Wing, Minnesota Alert Unusual Event N/A X
 Docket No. 50-282
 Docket No. 50-306

Subject: ELEVATED TRITIUM LEVEL IN ONSITE MONITORING WELL

On May 1, 1992, the licensee notified Region III (Chicago) that it had detected elevated levels of tritium (hydrogen-3) in an onsite well. The well is used to monitor ground water elevation and is not normally tested for tritium.

Tritium concentrations were 1,300-1,600 picocuries per liter, compared to 300-400 picocuries per liter in other onsite wells. The levels are well below the technical specification reporting levels. The Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standard is 20,000 picocuries per liter. The routine sampling program for monitoring offsite wells have shown no recent increases in measured tritium levels.

Because of the elevated measurements, the licensee hydrostatically tested the liquid radioactive waste release line between the discharge tanks and the discharge gates at the circulating water discharge canal. The hydrostatic test indicated a very low amount of leakage was occurring.

The licensee is evaluating repair or replacement of the release line piping.

The resident inspectors and the regional staff are following the licensee's response to the elevated tritium measurement. The States of Wisconsin and Minnesota have been notified.

The waste line leakage and resulting elevated tritium level appears to be unrelated to elevated tritium measurements which were measured in an offsite groundwater monitoring well in 1989. The licensee installed a long discharge line to avoid a pond area along shore which was believed to have affected the monitoring well levels.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 10 a.m. on May 4, 1992.

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