

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: February 19, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS EVENT--PNS-III-80-03

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE national security or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

FACILITY: Northern States Power Company
Prairie Island, Units 1 and 2
Red Wing, MN

SUBJECT: BOMB THREAT

On February 18, 1980, at approximately 10:30 a.m., a Northern States Power Company switchboard operator received a telephone call from what was described as a "young female voice" that explained that one bomb was planted in the Minneapolis Corporate Office, and one was planted at Prairie Island and would go off at 11:30 a.m. The licensee conducted a search of the plant and nothing was found. No explosion occurred. The licensee's management determined that the call was a hoax and no plant evacuation was ordered.

The NRC Resident Inspector monitored the plant search and notified NRC HQ Duty Officer at 11:18 a.m. (CDST). The Minneapolis FBI Office was notified on 2/18/80 by RIII. Neither the licensee nor RIII plan to make a Press release. The State of Minnesota will be notified. Unit 1 was operating and Unit 2 was in start up after refueling. These operations were not suspended during the search. *

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only and no further action by IE is planned. Region III was notified on 2/18/80. HQ Duty Officer notified by the Resident Inspector via red phone.

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