

June 4, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-053

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility  
Northern States Power Co.  
Prairie Island 1  
Welch, Minnesota  
Dockets: 50-282

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

Subject: SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR GROUND FAULT IN CONTROL ROD DRIVE SYSTEM

On June 2, 1997, Unit 1 experienced an automatic reactor trip from 100 percent power due to an electrical failure in one of the three control rod control cabinets. All safety systems functioned as designed and the reactor was stabilized in Hot Shutdown while troubleshooting of the failure began.

On June 3, the licensee's troubleshooting narrowed the source of the electrical problem to either a section of cable inside containment from the reactor missile shield to the drive mechanism for control rod H-8 or in the gripper coil of the drive mechanism itself.

The reactor will be taken to Cold Shutdown to isolate and repair the problem. The shutdown to repair the problem is expected to take approximately 5 to 7 days.

The State of Minnesota will be informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 11:55 a.m. (CDT) on June 2, 1997. This information is current as of 10:45 a.m. (CDT) on June 4, 1997.

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