



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC RESPONDING TO ALERT AT PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responding to an Alert declared at 3:53 a.m. CT at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generation Plant due to a chemical spill at the plant. The two-unit plant is operated by Northern States Power Co.– Minnesota and is located in Welch, Minn., approximately 26 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

The two NRC resident inspectors have responded to the site and are following the event in consultation with NRC staff at the NRC Region III Office in Lisle, Ill.

Workers at the plant discovered a sodium hypochlorite leak, commonly known as chlorine bleach, in a building where the chemical is used to treat water from the river used to cool plant equipment. The leak has been isolated in a berm around the building and a chemical crew is onsite to clean up the leak.

There was no radiation release and no impact to plant workers or the public. Both units are at full power and have not been affected.

An Alert is the second lowest emergency level in the NRC's emergency classification system.

Once the event is over, the NRC will fully investigate the cause of, or contributing factors to the incident.

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