



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region III
2443 Warrenville Road
Lisle IL 60532

No. III-12-008

Contacts: Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

March 6, 2012

E-Mail: opa3@nrc.gov

NRC IS MONITORING AN UNUSUAL EVENT AT PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is monitoring an Unusual Event – the lowest emergency level in the NRC’s emergency classification system - declared at 6:24 a.m. CT at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generation Plant Unit 2. The declaration was made due to an indication of an increase in reactor coolant system leakage. The two-unit plant, operated by Northern States Power Co.– Minnesota, is located in Welch, Minn., approximately 26 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

The NRC has activated its Incident Response Center in the Region III office in Lisle, Ill. Two NRC resident inspectors have responded to the site and are following the event in consultation with Region III staff.

Unit 2 is shut down for a refueling outage. The workers at the plant identified an apparent decrease in reactor vessel coolant level and are taking actions to further understand the situation. The plant is maintaining the appropriate level of water in the reactor. The NRC is monitoring the plant’s efforts.

There was no radiation released or impact to plant workers or the public. Unit 1 is at full power.

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

###

NRC news releases are available through a free list serve subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html> . The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.