



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE ON JULY 28 TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY WHITE INSPECTION FINDING AT PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a Regulatory Conference with Northern States Power Company-Minnesota on Thursday, July 28, to discuss a preliminary inspection finding issued to the plant. The two-unit plant is located in Welch, Minn., approximately 45 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. at the NRC's Region III office, 2443 Warrenville Rd. Suite 210 in Lisle, Ill. The public is invited to observe and will have an opportunity to talk with NRC officials after the business portion of the meeting.

The NRC identified preliminary finding is related to the Unit 1 safety-related battery chargers. The chargers were found to have the potential of not performing their safety functions under certain event scenarios such as if the voltage to the charger was lower than normal. Safety-related battery chargers are used to charge safety-related batteries which would provide power to remotely operate equipment. Each unit has two chargers. If both were lost, the chargers could be reset manually in order to continue to operate. The NRC's preliminary evaluation has determined this finding to be "White" meaning it has a low to moderate safety significance.

The utility has taken actions to address the issue. The NRC has evaluated the actions and considers them acceptable.

This regulatory conference is being held to discuss the preliminary finding, its safety significance and assist the NRC in making an enforcement decision. The utility will also be given an opportunity to clarify any issues raised in the report. No final decisions will be made at the regulatory conference. After the conference, the NRC will review the information received during the meeting and make a final determination on the safety significance of this issue.

The NRC inspection report detailing the finding is publically available in NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System ([ADAMS](#)) using is ML111610249 to access the report.

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