



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC APPROVES POWER UPRATE FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by Northern States Power Company to increase the generating capacity of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 by 1.64 percent.

The NRC staff determined that Northern States Power could safely increase the reactors' output primarily through more accurate means of measuring feedwater flow. NRC staff also reviewed the company's evaluations showing the plant's design can handle the increased power level.

The NRC safety evaluation of the plant's proposed power uprate focused on several areas, including the nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, fire protection, operations and training, testing, and technical specification changes.

The power uprate for Prairie Island, located approximately 28 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Minn., will increase Unit 1's generating capacity from approximately 551 to 560 megawatts electric and Unit 2's generating capacity from approximately 545 to 554 megawatts electric. Northern States Power intends to implement the uprate in February 2011.

The NRC previously published a notice about the power uprate application in the *Federal Register* (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-10820.pdf>) providing the public an opportunity to comment or request a hearing. The agency's evaluation of the Prairie Island power uprate will be available through the NRC's ADAMS electronic document database by entering ML102030573 on this Web page: <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>.

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