

January 12, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-07-001

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 the Region III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Monticello	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Nuclear Management Co.	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Monticello, MN	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-263	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
License: DPR-22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO REACTOR SHUTDOWN DUE TO TURBINE CONTROL VALVE FAILURE (EVENT NOTIFICATION EN 43088)

DESCRIPTION:

At 3:28 p.m. CDT on January 10, 2007, the reactor shut down automatically after all four turbine control valves unexpectedly opened subsequent to turbine control valve testing. Prior to the trip, the reactor was at 90 percent power and stable. The open control valves caused a decrease in main steam line pressure which eventually led to the automatic scram. All safety systems functioned as designed during the reactor scram.

Because of the decrease in main steam line pressure when the control valves opened, the main steam isolation valves automatically closed; preventing the use of the main condenser for decay heat removal. Cooldown and depressurization was accomplished using a combination of manual manipulation of the safety relief valves, and the High Pressure Coolant Injection and Reactor Core Isolation Systems. The reactor is currently stable and in the cold shutdown condition, with the residual heat removal system being used for decay heat removal.

During the initial investigation of the cause of the scram, the licensee identified that the turbine control valve actuator box was displaced by 8-12 inches, as a result of damage to the welds that connected the actuator platform to the support I-beams. Plant staff and the resident inspectors are investigating the cause of the weld damage and the turbine valve closure, as well as whether the two problems are connected.

The plant will remain shut down until the root causes for the two issues are identified and the turbine control valve problems are repaired.

NRC resident inspectors are monitoring the situation. Additional NRC inspections will augment the resident inspectors to assist in gathering information concerning the apparent structural failures that resulted in the displacement of the turbine control valve actuator box.

The State of Minnesota has been informed.

The event was reported to the NRC at 7:46 EDT on January 11, 2007. This information has been discussed with licensed management and is current as of 10:00 a.m. CDT on January 12, 2007.

This preliminary notification will be updated as close to plant restart as possible.

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