

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

June 27, 2011

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-11-008

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region III staff.

Facility

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Co.
Monticello, MN
Docket: 50-263
License: DPR-22

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO A LEAKING SAFETY RELIEF VALVE

DESCRIPTION:

At 10:27 a.m. (CST) on June 24, 2011, Monticello operators inserted a manual scram to complete a reactor shutdown. The unit is currently shut down and in a safe and stable condition. Station personnel shut down the reactor to commence an outage to replace a leaking safety relief valve (SRV).

Following plant restart from a planned refueling outage in May 2011, licensee personnel identified that the "E" SRV exhibited higher than normal tailpipe temperatures, indicative of leakage through the valve. Tailpipe temperatures continued to trend upwards and on June 23, 2011, reached licensee/vendor pre-established limits for continued operation.

The NRC resident inspectors, augmented by a region-based inspector, monitored the reactor shutdown and will continue to monitor repair activities at the plant.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. State and local officials have been informed. The site issued a press release on June 23, 2011, describing the event.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 8:00 a.m. (CST), June 27, 2011.

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