

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

December 12, 2011

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-11-016-A

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
ACTUATION OF REACTOR PROTECTION RELAYS SENSING LOW
TURBINE CONTROL VALVE HYDRAULIC PRESSURE (UPDATE)

DESCRIPTION:

On December 8, 2011, at 6:08 p.m., Monticello operators commenced a reactor startup following a reactor scram that occurred on November 19, 2011. The reactor was made critical at 11:00 p.m., on December 8, 2011, and the plant was initially synchronized to the electrical grid at 2:55 a.m. on December 10, 2011. On November 19, 2011, Monticello experienced a reactor scram following the unexpected actuation of the relays used to trip the reactor when adequate turbine control valve hydraulic pressure is not maintained. The reactor responded as expected to the received signals and there was no adverse effect to public health and safety from this event. After performing repairs and testing, a reactor start up commenced on November 27, 2011. On November 28, 2011, during startup activities, similar fluctuations on turbine control oil returned and the site elected to shut down for further diagnosis and repairs. Further investigation discovered degradation within the turbine's front standard. Repairs and subsequent testing have been performed.

The NRC resident inspectors responded to both reactor shutdowns and monitored the licensee's investigation and repairs of the affected equipment. The NRC resident inspectors observed the licensee's repair, troubleshooting activities, and the subsequent restart.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. State and local officials have been informed. The site issued a press release on November 20, 2011, describing the event.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:00 a.m. (CST), on December 12, 2011.

ADAMS Accession Number ML113460575.

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