

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

September 15, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-08-009

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.

Facility

Monticello Nuclear Generating Station
Nuclear Management Company (NMC)
Monticello, Minnesota
Docket: 50-263
License: DPR-22

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION:

On September 11, 2008, at 10:47 p.m. (CDT), while the 1R transformer was out-of-service for maintenance, the 2R transformer experienced a lockout resulting in a loss of normal offsite power to the non-safety buses, a reactor scram, and a Group 1, 2 and 3 isolation. Offsite power to the safety-related buses was still available through the 1AR transformer. However, upon the loss of the 2R transformer, both emergency diesel generators (EDG) started and were running unloaded as designed and as expected.

The high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) operated as expected to maintain water level; however, it did not automatically trip at the high reactor water level set point (+48 inches) as required, and was manually isolated by the operators. Additionally, the automatic depressurization system (ADS) timer showed erratic indication following the event and was inhibited to prevent automatic action. The conditions for automatic action of ADS were not met. The operators were also unable to either remotely or locally lower the speed of the 12 EDG to restore it to a standby condition. HPCI, ADS, and the 12 EDG were subsequently declared inoperable, but were still considered available.

Currently, the plant is in mode 4 and depressurized. Troubleshooting activities are in progress to identify and repair the issues associated with the HPCI, ADS, and 12 EDG systems. In addition, the licensee is investigating the cause of the lockout on the 2R transformer. The licensee is also evaluating whether, during the event, reactor water level rose high enough to enter the main steam line piping.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The State of Minnesota has been notified.

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on September 15, 2008.

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