

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

November 22, 2011

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

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

DESCRIPTION:

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. Hydraulic fluid is used to actuate valves that allow steam to be transmitted to the turbine for the generation of electricity. As a protective feature, the reactor is designed to anticipatorily shut down should the hydraulic pressure drop below a specific value. The relay actuation occurred during routine turbine control valve testing and the nature of the actuation is currently under investigation. The reactor responded as expected to the received signals and there was no adverse effect to public health and safety from this event.

The NRC resident inspectors responded to the reactor scram and are monitoring the licensee's investigation and repairs of the affected equipment.

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 November 22, 2011.

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