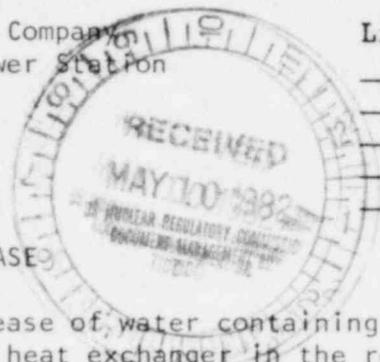


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5/4/82

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 staff on this date.

Facility: Northern States Power Company
Monticello Nuclear Power Station
Docket No. 50-263
Monticello, MN 55362

Licensee Emergency Classification:
____ Notification of Unusual Event
____ Alert
____ Site Area Emergency
____ General Emergency
X ____ Not Applicable



Subject: UNPLANNED LIQUID RELEASE

A minor unplanned release of water containing radioactivity occurred May 3 because of a tube leak in the heat exchanger in the residual heat removal (RHR) system. At the time of the release, the plant was operating at approximately 95% power. The RHR system was not in use.

The licensee reported a service water system radiation monitor detected radioactivity in the system about 6:00 p.m., May 3. The service water system flows into the discharge canal to the Mississippi River. The discharge canal radiation monitor showed no measureable radioactivity.

Licensee personnel later determined the source of the radioactivity to be a leak in the RHR heat exchanger which allowed primary system water to enter the service water system, which is normally not radioactive. When the RHR system is in use for reactor cooling, the service water pressure is greater than the primary side pressure, thus preventing leakage into the service water system. Reduced pressure in the service water system, caused by operation of a heat exchanger for torus cooling, may have accelerated the leakage.

The heat exchanger was isolated at 1:30 a.m., (CDT) May 4, terminating the release.

Based on analysis of service water grab samples, the licensee calculated the total release to be less than five millicuries, primarily Co-60. The calculated concentration of the release to the river was 1×10^{-8} microcuries per milliliter, which is less than 0.1% of the applicable regulatory limit.

The licensee is holding a news media seminar at the Monticello plant, and intends to notify the news media of the release during the seminar. Region III (Chicago) does not plan to issue a news announcement.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information due to the potential for public awareness.

The State of Minnesota will be notified.

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PDR I&E
PNO-III-82-040 PDR

The Headquarters Duty Officer was notified of the service water monitor readings by the ENS telephone at 7:45 a.m., (CDT), May 4. The resident inspector was also notified. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. (CDT), May 4.

DISTRIBUTION: Contact: D. Miller, 384-2634 L. Greger, 384-2644

H. St. <u>12:40</u>	MNBB <u>135</u>	Phillips <u>130</u>	E/W <u>1230</u>	Willste <u>150</u>
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS
Comm. Gilinsky	PA		OIA	RES
Comm. Ahearne	MPA		AEOD	
Comm. Roberts	ELD	Air Rights <u>211</u>		MAIL:
ACRS		SP	INPO <u>210</u>	ADM:DMB
SECY			NSAC <u>209</u>	
CA				
PDR				

Regions I 152, II 101, IV 204, V 215 Licensee (Corporate Office) 220

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