

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 Co.  
 Monticello Nuclear Power Station  
 Docket No. 50-263  
 Monticello, MN 55362

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

Subject: COOL DOWN BY ALTERNATIVE COOLING PROCEDURE

The reactor had been placed in hot shutdown early on September 2, 1982, in preparation for a planned six-week refueling, maintenance and modification outage. Because of an inoperable valve in the RHR system, the reactor was then taken to cold shutdown using the turbine bypass valves to direct steam to the condenser and the reactor water cleanup system heat exchanger.

The RHR valve inoperability was recognized in advance by the licensee and acceptable alternative cooling procedures were utilized. The reactor was placed in cold shutdown at 5:30 a.m. (CDT).

Region III (Chicago) is reviewing the matter to determine if an Unusual Event should have been declared because the cooling procedures were not the normal ones. Region III's preliminary assessment is that an Unusual Event should have been declared by the licensee.

The licensee has issued a news announcement on the refueling outage, but not on the RHR valve inoperability. Region III does not plan to issue a news announcement.

The State of Minnesota will be notified.

The Headquarters duty officer was notified of this event at 2:15 a.m. (CDT), September 2, 1982. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. (CDT), September 2, 1982.

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