

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 Plant  
Docket No. 50-263  
Monticello, MN 55362

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
\_\_\_\_ Notification of Unusual Event  
\_\_\_\_ Alert  
\_\_\_\_ Site Area Emergency  
\_\_\_\_ General Emergency  
xx Not Applicable

Subject: RECIRCULATION LOOP CAP CRACKING (UPDATE)

Additional ultrasonic testing of recirculation cooling system piping has identified crack indications in four riser pipes leading to the reactor. The cracks previously identified were in the "A" loop end cap which has now been replaced.

One new riser crack indication was about 9% of the wall thickness and the remaining were determined to be less than 3.5%.

The licensee had proposed repair of the 9% indication by a weld overlay process and no action on the other cracks at this time. During surface preparation for the overlay repair, two pinhole through-wall cracks were discovered in the riser pipe. Ultrasonic testing had previously identified the pinhole crack as slag-inclusions or pipe geometry reflections.

The licensee is currently evaluating the pinhole cracks to determine what repair actions are needed. The resident inspectors and a Region III (Chicago) piping specialist have been reviewing the licensee's activities at the site. Region III issued a Confirmatory Action Letter on 10/21/82 requiring the licensee to submit repair information and its analysis of the cracking phenomenon. NRC staff authorization must be obtained before the unit returns to operation after its present refueling outage.

The licensee has notified the news media that pipe repair activities are under way and Region III has responded to news media inquiries.

Region III was notified of the pinhole cracks on 10/21/82. This information is current as of 10 a.m. October 22, 1982.

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