

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
Monticello, MN
Docket No. 50-263

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

Subject: SLOW CLOSURE OF PRIMARY SYSTEM RELIEF VALVE FOLLOWING A REACTOR TRIP

At 4:05 p.m. (CST) on April 8, 1982, the licensee declared an "unusual event" after an "H" Primary System Relief Valve failed to fully close for a 4-minute period following a reactor trip. During this 4-minute period, reactor pressure dropped to approximately 530 psig before the relief valve finally closed. (Normal pressure range is between 900 and 1000 psig.)

The incident occurred during maintenance on the main generator field voltage regulator while the reactor was operating at full power. During maintenance, the field voltage was suddenly lost, causing a turbine lock-out, a turbine trip and a reactor trip. All systems responded to the trip as designed with the exception of the "H" Primary System Relief Valve.

No difficulties were encountered in maintaining the reactor water level within acceptable limits. No ECCS actuation was required. There were no radiation releases.

The unusual event status was terminated by the licensee at 4:30 p.m. (CST) after the open relief valve was closed, and all systems were determined to be stable. The reactor has been taken to cold shutdown to investigate and correct the cause of the slow closure of the relief valve.

The licensee has notified state and local officials. There has been no media interest. Neither the licensee nor Region III plans to issue a press release. Region III will respond to media inquiries. The State of Minnesota will be notified.

The Senior Resident Inspector is on site and following the licensee's investigation and resulting actions. This information is current as of 10 a.m. (CST), April 9, 1982.

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