

APPLICATION OF SAFETY PARAMETER DISPLAY EVALUATION
PROJECT TO DESIGN OF W SPDS

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Introduction

Appendix E documents the manner in which man-in-the-loop testing was factored into the development of the design basis and functional requirements for the Westinghouse SPDS by application of the experience obtained from the EPRI project, "Evaluation of Safety Parameter Display Concepts", EPRI-NP-2239. Man-in-the-loop testing with regard to the design concept of the SPDS as an aid to the operator was completed in the EPRI project.

1. Role of Safety Parameter Display Evaluation Project in Westinghouse SPDS Design Process

The Safety Parameter Display Evaluation project examined operator performance in simulated accidents with 2 prototype safety panels (i.e., man-in-the-loop testing). Two kinds of results were derived from this study: the study showed that analysis of operator decision making was a useful tool to understand operator behavior; there were findings with respect to the concept of safety panels in general and the specific prototypes used, in particular. The study was done during the time when Westinghouse was in the process of developing a Safety Parameter Display System design (1980-1981).

A statistical comparison of crew performance with and without a safety panel available was not performed because of limitations imposed by the retraining program on the experimental design and because of variations in crew response strategies. To date there has been no quantitative evaluation of a control room modification on a full scale simulator.

Instead the analysis of the data was based on decision process analysis. This technique reveals not just what actions a crew takes but also the decision process or context that led to the action. It is important to know why and how a crew action was ultimately successful or not successful in order to identify the useful features of a new operator aid, design deficiencies, and boundary conditions (e.g., where will a new concept help and where is it unable to help the user's decision process).

The particular decision analysis performed in this study was derived from Rasmussen's (1979) model of operator behavior (Figure 1). The different stages of this model were grouped into four categories: detect, interpret, control, and feedback. The detect stage included alert, observation, recognition and identification activities; the interpretation stage concerned how the crew understood plant status including the implications of system status, relevant goals and strategy planning; the control category included action selection and execution, and the feedback stage concerned observation/data collection, recognition and identification as follow up to an operator action as opposed to the detect stage where these activities occur as a follow up to an alert. Effective feedback includes verifying that actions were implemented correctly, monitoring the effect of the action on plant state, and monitoring the effect of the action on reaching goals. (Note that the last two items imply a link between the feedback stage and the interpretation stage).

These categories were used to chart the decision process in each test event. The decision model provided a mechanism to generalize operator behavior and operator SPDS usage across particular tasks, events, and crews.

The decision analysis revealed, in the area of crew decision making, that operator problems did not occur in the detection of initial system failures, rather they occurred with subsequent problems, either operator error/miscontrol or subsequent system failures. These problems were associated with poor feedback about the results of control actions with respect to system state and recovery goals. The usefulness of the SPDS

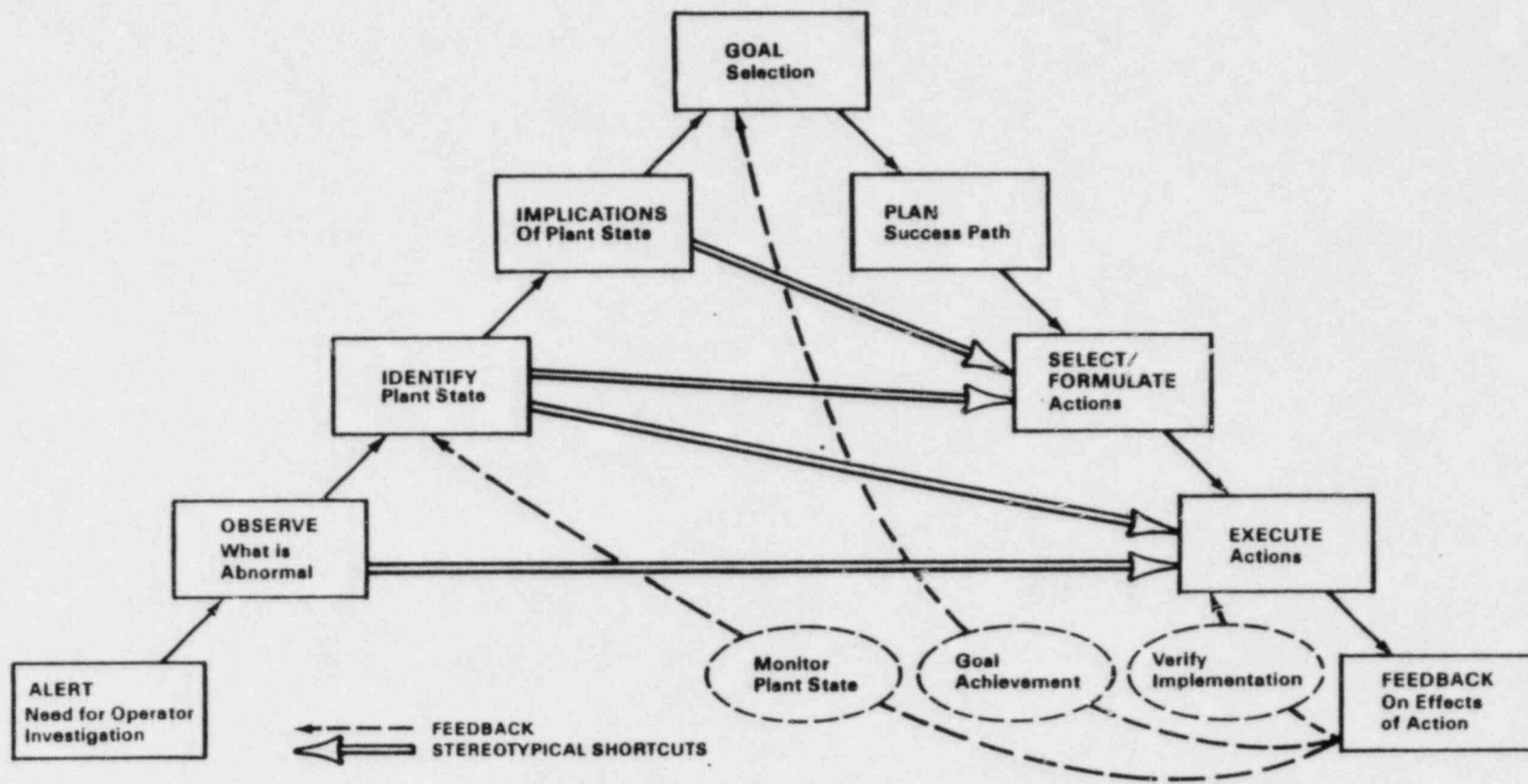


Figure 1. Decision-Making Model (Adapted from Rasmussen) Including Feedback

in alleviating problems with poor feedback is included in Section 2, which gives a detailed discussion of results from the Safety Parameter Display Evaluation project.

This result confirms part of the Westinghouse SPDS design basis (cf., Little & Woods, 1981, pg. 7), in particular, that displays should support operator roles in detection (both initial and subsequent detections) -- "is there a problem? where? what kind of problem? is the problem decreasing or increasing in severity? -- and feedback (monitoring the effect of actions on plant state and monitoring the effect of actions on reaching goals) -- "are the actions taken successful? is the problem receding or expanding?" Furthermore, the safety panel usage data (in particular, the data from the prototype that was based on Westinghouse SPDS concepts) showed that an SPDS can serve as the source of improved feedback to operators. However, it should be noted that feedback associated with verifying that actions were implemented correctly is not part of the of the SPDS primary function and is performed by control board instrumentation, such as status lights for switches (although SPDS displays can support this function to the extent that component status is part of the data base).

"Safety panels were successfully used to aid in the problem recognition activity and for feedback during the control activity. (p.5-6).

The operators used the safety panels to obtain feedback about plant conditions following operator decisions or actions. Examples range from cases where operators used the safety panel prototypes to discover that the faulted steam generator had not been successfully isolated to cases where operators discovered that conditions in a hypothesized faulted steam generator did not match their diagnosis." (p. 4-25, 4-26).

The above example of results from the Safety Parameter Display Evaluation project shows that the decision analysis method derived from Rasmussen's model proved to be a useful tool to analyze operator behavior and to link that behavior to general and specific characteristics of potential SPDS designs.

As such, the study provided one basis, derived from the analysis of operator performance during transient testing rather than opinion, for the operator behavior concepts used in the Westinghouse SPDS design basis.

In addition to confirming design basis concepts, the Safety Parameter Display Evaluation study provided data on the two specific prototypes used in the test. The prototype based on Westinghouse SPDS concepts accounted for 63% of the total number of SPDS consultations (including both safety panel prototypes), over 80% of the total number of successful SPDS consultations, but only 6% of the unsuccessful ones (almost 30% of total SPDS consultations were unsuccessful). In other words, an SPDS prototype based on Westinghouse concepts did provide operators with information needed during decision making. The specific deficiency related to the unsuccessful consultations were identified and the displays modified. In addition, display deficiencies identified for the other prototype were noted and the information used to avoid similar problems in Westinghouse SPDS displays that were not part of the Safety Parameter Display Evaluation test (Section 4.3.3 of the final report contains the particular deficiencies found).

In terms of the particular displays that made up the Westinghouse prototype safety panel (cf., p. S-8, S-9), the polargraphic display helped detect the onset of a problem; it was consulted to obtain an overview of plant status; the lack of operator familiarity reduced its usage; and the plant status display was the most frequently and effectively used display (primarily due to its data integration role) and was used by some SROs to carry out their system manager role.

2. Results With the Specific Safety Panel Prototypes

Human factors deficiencies in the Panel A concept greatly impaired the usability of these displays (Table 1). Some of these deficiencies were the result of implementation compromises rather than design features. Nevertheless, the low usage rate produced by these deficiencies obscured the potential usefulness of an SPDS designed along the Panel A concept. In particular, the trend displays on Panel A, as implemented, did not

TABLE 1

Safety Panel Prototype Usage
(Each prototype was available in test events)

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Total</u>
Panel A Concept	9	15	24
Westinghouse Concept	36	4	40
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Total	45	19	64

meet the operators' information needs (i.e., low usage rate), because these displays were not an effective real time monitoring tool (cf., pg S-8).

Sources of this result include:

- * Data update (30 seconds) was too slow (cf., pg I-9 for an example of unsuccessful usage due to this deficiency);
- * Data averaging time window was too large (30 seconds);
- * Display response time was too slow (10 seconds; implementation compromise);
- * The plots could have helped an operator identify past causes for current plant conditions (for example, is pressure dropping because a relief valve opened?) but did not because logarithmic scales obscured maxima, minima and rates of change information (cf., pg I-3 for examples);
- * In general, operators rarely used the trend portions of the displays, relying instead on the digital most recent value readout (cf., pg I-8 for an example).

NSAC has used the results of this evaluation to significantly modify their SPDS concepts, for example, by adding a top level display.

The Westinghouse prototype was used more frequently. Table 2 shows the frequency of successful/unsuccessful consultations as a function of crew. Only the Westinghouse prototype was used as an integrated part of the crew's recovery response. For example, in one trial (TR1-H), the shift supervisor effectively utilized the Westinghouse safety panel by stationing himself at the unit for virtually the entire first 18 minutes of the event. In two other trials (TR2-H and TR3-H), a different supervisor made use of the Westinghouse safety panel by referring to it frequently as he moved around the control room.

TABLE 2

Successful/Unsuccessful Consultations
as a Function of Crew

<u>Crew</u>	<u>Safety Panel Concept</u>	<u>Number of Events SP Available</u>	<u>Successful Consultations</u>	<u>Unsuccessful Consultations</u>
A	Panel A	3	3	7
B	Panel A	2	2	1
C	Panel A	2	0	1
D	Panel A	1	1	2
E	Panel A	3	3	4
F	Westinghouse (Panel B)	4	12	3
G	Westinghouse (Panel B)	3	7	0
H	Westinghouse (Panel B)	4	17	1

When a safety panel had a major impact on the evolution of a trial, the prototype was used to support the shift supervisor's system manager role.

For example, in TR2-H the supervisor used the Westinghouse safety panel to monitor and modify the BOP's control of the secondary system. In FW3-E he used the Panel A to monitor the evolution of his feed and bleed strategy. In events TR1-F and TR3-H, he used the Westinghouse safety panel to monitor RCS depressurization, directing operator actions as necessary to continue the depressurization.

The Westinghouse prototype safety panel was used successfully in several types of operational problems. First, it was used in the detection of initial problems (cf., pg I-2). Second, it was used to monitor plant status as an input to operator recovery decisions. This occurred both at the level of input to strategic decisions, that is, choosing which maneuvers to execute, and at the level of tactical decisions, that is, decisions about how or when to execute planned actions.

Examples include:

- * In two events (FW2-G, FW3-G), a crew used Safety Panel B narrow range iconic and plant status displays to check that RCS conditions were stable and within safe bounds before it planned to establish a feedwater path through the condensate pumps as a solution to AFW problem.
- * In one event (FW3-G), before beginning to execute the condensate pump path, the BOP asked the RO what the status of the RCS was. The RO used Safety Panel B wide range iconic to check that RCS conditions were stable and within safe bounds.
- * A crew (PSI-F), knowing that low RCS pressure would initiate a SI signal and that there was no RCS leak, used Safety Panel B plant status display to check plant conditions, especially RCS subcooling, before deciding to block SI.

- * A crew (TRI-H) monitored a power reduction from Safety Panel B plant status display and performed a manual Rx trip when they detected nuclear power less than 10%.
- * A crew (TRI-F) consulted Safety Panel B plant status and RCS displays to check plant conditions as an input to the decision to begin to realign normal charging/letdown and to restart one RCP. The crew's goal was to use PRZR spray as a means of RCS depressurization.
- * The SRO in another event (FWI-G) asked the RO to call up and consult the Safety Panel B wide range iconic display to check plant status and PRZR level before the SRO decided whether or not to realign normal charging/letdown.

A third area of results on safety panel utilization is feedback about the results of control actions, in particular, monitoring the effect of actions on plant state and monitoring the effect of actions on reaching goals. With respect to operator decision behavior, data on error correction reveal that operators can have problems with poor feedback about the effect of control actions on system state and recovery goals. In particular, when operators misidentified plant state or had execution difficulties, they generally failed to correct their understanding of plant state or to identify and correct execution problems within the duration of the test events (Table 3). When errors were corrected it was generally due to the intervention of external agents (i.e., the instructor) or took relatively long times (up to 8 minutes). The data in Table 3 does not include cases where operator problems were corrected with help from the Westinghouse safety panel, although it does include cases where Panel A did not provide necessary feedback.

The usage data with the Westinghouse prototype reveals several instances where this safety panel was successfully used to obtain feedback. Examples where feedback was obtained from the Westinghouse safety panel to correct problems include:

TABLE 3

Error Correction Results
(Errors corrected with Westinghouse SPDS
utilization are not included)

	<u>No</u> <u>Correction</u>	<u>External</u> <u>Correction</u>	<u>Correction</u>
Problems in State Identification	7	5	0
Problems in Execution	5	0	7
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Total	12	5	7

- * In event TR3-H the RO detected that the faulted SG level was within wide range instrumentation from Safety Panel B plant status and wide range iconic displays. The BOP had reported earlier that the faulted SG was empty by misreading narrow for wide range level from the control board.
- * The SRO (TR2-H) detected low SG levels in two unaffected SGs from Safety Panel B plant status display. (The BOP had been slow in re-establishing AFW flow to the unaffected SGs after stopping all AFW to aid in the SGTR diagnosis.) The SRO then directed the BOP to increase AFW flow to the unaffected SGs.
- * Safety Panel B plant status display helped the SRP detect that AFW had not been isolated completely from the faulted SG (TR2-H). The faulted SG had been isolated, but the BOP turned on the turbine driven AFW pump to increase unaffected SG levels. However, AFW flow also began to the faulted SG.

Other examples where operators used the Westinghouse prototype to obtain feedback on the results of control actions include:

- * In event TR2-H the SRO detected that only 2 of the 3 unaffected SGs were being used to cool the RCS from Safety Panel B plant status display. He directed the BOP to open the third SG PORV.
- * In another event (FW3-G), a crew detected that PRZR level was low and decreasing. The crew isolated letdown and then consulted Safety Panel B wide range iconic for feedback. The iconic display showed the crew that the PRZR level decrease halted.

These results suggest that SPDS concepts like those used in the Westinghouse prototype can aid operators to obtain better feedback on the results of control actions and therefore to provide a more error corrective man-machine system.

Summary

There is a trade-off that occurs in tests of user performance with new aids: on one hand, the test can occur late in the design process when a rather refined design is available to test but where changes, especially fundamental ones, may be difficult to make; on the other hand, the test can occur early in the design process when there is the greatest opportunity for results to affect the design but where the test must be done with relatively cruder prototype systems. In this case, the Safety Parameter Display Evaluation project was performed early in the Westinghouse SPDS design process and served to help confirm (along with demonstrations of the concepts to operators) the Westinghouse design basis approach and provide guidance to the detailed design. In addition, man-in-the-loop testing was incorporated into the development of the design basis and functional requirements for the Westinghouse SPDS by application of the results from the Safety Parameter Display Evaluation Project.