

Lapses in Operator Fundamentals

A current area of concern

Previous Industry and NRC Actions

- INPO issued industry guidance in 2011 and 2017, along with event descriptions in 2013 and 2020.
- NRC issued Information Notices in 2011 and 2018 (IN 11-02, 18-03, 18-04)
 - Focused on specific events
 - Did not broadly address operator fundamentals

Examples of Recent Issues

- March 9, 2019, operators attempted to lower reactive power and incorrectly changed the automatic voltage regulator from automatic to manual
- May 3, 2019, operators attempted to increase pressurizer pressure, but mistakenly increased the controller input error instead
- May 16, 2019, operators did not block the source range high flux trip prior to reaching the trip setpoint
- August 19, 2020, operators performed a continuous rod withdraw during startup which resulted in a startup rate of 3 decades per minute

NRC Observations

- There have been 4 plant trips in 18 months caused by lapses in operator fundamentals
- Additional transients have also involved lapses in operator fundamentals
- NRC is considering what potential actions are warranted and is opening dialogue with the industry about their ongoing efforts in this area