



Northern States Power Company

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
2807 West Hwy 75
Monticello, Minnesota 55362-9637

February 13, 1997

10 CFR Part 50
Section 50.73

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

LER 97-002

No Licensed Senior Operator in the Control Room/Shift Supervisor's Office

The Licensee Event Report for this occurrence is attached. This report contains no NRC commitments.

Even though this LER is numbered 97002, it is the first 1997 LER submitted by Monticello. LER 97001 is a voluntary report that will be submitted in February of 1997.

Please contact Tom Parker at (612) 295-1014 if you require further information.

William J Hill
Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

c: Regional Administrator - III NRC
Sr Resident Inspector, NRC
NRR Project Manager, NRC
State of Minnesota, Attn: Kris Sanda

Attachment

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NRC FORM 366 (4-96)		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION			APPROVED BY OMB NO. 3150-0104 EXPIRES 4/30/98						
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) <small>(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)</small>								ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (MNBB 7714), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.			
FACILITY NAME (1) MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT					DOCKET NUMBER (2) 05000 - 263			PAGE (3) 1 OF 3			
TITLE (4) No Licensed Senior Operator in the Control Room/Shift Supervisor's Office											
EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT NUMBER (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)		
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER	
01	16	97	97	002	00	02	13	97		05000	
OPERATING MODE (9)			THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)								
POWER LEVEL (10)			20.402(b)		20.405(c)		50.73(a)(2)(iv)		73.71(b)		
100 %			20.405(a)(1)(i)		50.36(c)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(v)		73.71(c)		
%			20.405(a)(1)(ii)		50.36(c)(2)		50.73(a)(2)(vii)		OTHER		
			20.405(a)(1)(iii)		✓ 50.73(a)(2)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)		(Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)		
			20.405(a)(1)(iv)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)				
			20.405(a)(1)(v)		50.73(a)(2)(iii)		50.73(a)(2)(x)				
LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)											
NAME Tom Parker						TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) 612-295-1014					
COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)											
CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS		
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)											
YES <small>(IF YES, COMPLETE EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)</small>					✓ NO					EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	
										MONTH	DAY

ABSTRACT LIMIT TO 1400 SPACES, I.E., APPROXIMATELY 15 SINGLE-SPACED TYPEWRITTEN LINES) (16)
NCR FORM 366 (4-95)

While at 100% power, neither the duty shift manager nor the duty shift supervisor were present in the control room/shift supervisor's office for approximately 10 seconds. The shift manager got too involved in responding to a question and forgot that the shift supervisor had left the control room/shift supervisor's office. Soon after exiting the control room/shift supervisor's office, the shift manager met the shift supervisor. They both immediately realized that there was no licensed senior operator in the control room/shift supervisor's office. The shift supervisor and the shift manager returned to the control room/shift supervisor's office. The operations supervisor discussed the event with the shift manager involved. An administrative system to help remind the shift supervisor's and manager's of this requirement is being evaluated.

NRC FORM 366A (5-92)		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		APPROVED BY OMB NO. 3150-0104 EXPIRES 5/31/95	
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION				ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (MNBB 7714), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON, DC 20503.	
FACILITY NAME(1)		DOCKET NUMBER (2)		LER NUMBER (6)	
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT		05000 263		YEAR 97	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER 002
				REVISION NUMBER 00	PAGE (3) 2 of 3

Description

On January 16, 1997, while at 100% power, neither the duty shift manager nor the duty shift supervisor were present in the control room (EIS System Code: NA) or shift supervisor's office for approximately 10 seconds. Note 3 of Table 6.1.1 of the Technical Specifications states that:

One LSO [Licensed Senior Operator] shall be in the control room or shift supervisor's office at all times when the reactor is in the Startup or Run Mode . . .

The shift manager and the shift supervisor were initially both in the control room or shift supervisor's office (hereafter called the control area). The shift supervisor left the control area after notifying the shift manager. The shift manager acknowledged the shift supervisor's statement.

The shift manager was in the shift supervisor's office, an office shared by the shift manager and the shift supervisor. The shift manager was asked a question concerning the operability of plant equipment associated with a surveillance test that had been performed that day. In pursuit of the answer to that question, the shift manager left the control area. In accordance with plant procedure 4AWI-04.01.01, Section 4.1.5, the shift manager is required to notify the shift supervisor when leaving the control area. This did not happen.

After exiting the control area by about 10 feet, the shift manager met the shift supervisor. Both immediately realized that there was no licensed senior operator in the control area. Both immediately returned to the control area.

Cause

The shift manager became too involved in responding to the surveillance question and forgot that the shift supervisor was not in the control area. The shift manager failed to follow the plant procedure to notify the shift supervisor prior to leaving the control area.

Analysis of Reportability

This event is reportable per 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) since this event resulted in ". . . operation or condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications;"..

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Safety Significance

The purpose of the quoted Technical Specification requirement is to assure a person is available who can provide the oversight function of the supervisor to aid in detecting and mitigating abnormal events. In this event, a licensed senior operator was never far from the control area. At the time the shift manager realized no licensed senior operator was in the control area, the shift manager was still in hearing distance of the remote control room alarms in the shift supervisor's office. Both the shift supervisor and the shift manager were reachable via the plant page and also each carried beepers. No abnormal event occurred during the period when no licensed senior operator was in the control area. This event had no effect on the health and safety of the public.

Had the shift manager not met the shift supervisor immediately outside the control area and the shift supervisor not returned to the control area, the control area would have been without a licensed senior operator for a longer period of time. The shift manager was looking for a piece of specific information in the instrument shop to address the answer to the question posed. The maximum amount of time the shift manager would have been outside the control area is estimated to have been five minutes. The page can be clearly heard in the instrument shop which is located approximately 30 feet from the control area. The shift manager would have been only seconds away from the control area.

Actions

Immediate Actions

The shift supervisor and the shift manager immediately returned to the control area. This event was referenced in the Operations Night Orders on January 16, 1997.

Corrective Actions

The operations supervisor discussed the event with the shift manager involved and sent an electronic message to all shift managers and shift supervisors.

Preventive Actions

An additional administrative system to remind the shift supervisor's and manager's of this requirement is being evaluated.
This report will be distributed to all shift managers and shift supervisors.

Failed Component Identification - None

Similar Events - None