



Northern States Power Company

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

November 13, 1996

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 96-010  
Panel Fire Barrier Not in Correct Position

The Licensee Event Report for this occurrence is attached. This report contains one new NRC commitment:

Panel fire barriers like the one found out of position will be periodically verified to be in the proper position.

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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PDR ADOCK 05000263  
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NRC FORM 366 (5-92)		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION			APPROVED BY OMB NO. 3150-0104 EXPIRES 5/31/95						
<b>LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)</b>  <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) <b>MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT</b>					DOCKET NUMBER (2) <b>05000 - 3</b>		PAGE (3) <b>1 OF 5</b>				
TITLE (4) <b>Panel Fire Barrier Not in Correct Position</b>											
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	
10	16	96	96	010	00	11	13	96	FACILITY NAME	05000	
									FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER 05000	
OPERATING MODE (9)		N	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)								
			20.402(b)			20.405(c)			50.73(a)(2)(iv)		73.71(b)
POWER LEVEL (10)		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)(vii)(B)		
			20.405(a)(1)(v)			50.73(a)(2)(iii)			50.73(e)(2)(x)		
LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)											
NAME <b>Tom Parker</b>						TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) <b>612-295-1014</b>					
COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)											
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	YEAR

ABSTRACT LIMIT TO 1400 SPACES, I.E., APPROXIMATELY 15 SINGLE-SPACED TYPEWRITTEN LINES) (16)  
NCR FORM 366 (5-91)

During a plant walkdown, a panel fire barrier between two divisions of emergency core cooling system was found to be out of position. The barrier was placed in the proper position and measures were taken to fix the barrier in the correct position. The cause of the barrier being out of position is not known. Other similar barriers were inspected and found to be in the proper position. These barriers will be periodically inspected to assure they remain in the proper position.

NRC FORM 366A (5-92)		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		APPROVED BY OMB NO. 3150-0104 EXPIRES 5/31/95	
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FACILITY NAME(1)		DOCKET NUMBER (2)		LER NUMBER (8)	
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT		05000 263		YEAR 96	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER 010
				REVISION NUMBER 00	PAGE (3) 2 of 5

### Description

On October 16, 1996, at approximately 1030 with the plant at full power, it was determined that a reportable condition existed. One of the fiberboards separating two panels<sup>1</sup> (EIS Component Code: PL) of main control board section CO3 was out of place (see attached figure). This was discovered during a plant walkdown. The main control board consists of several panels. Each panel sets on steel channels. Each control board panel is open at the bottom and the back. Ends of the panels are solid, where divisional separation is required. A fiberboard provides divisional separation between the floor and the bottom of the ends of the panels. One of these fiberboards was found out of position in the main control board panels. It was found at approximately a 45 degree angle to vertical (see attached figure).

Main control board section CO3 contains both divisions of low pressure core injection (EIS System Code: BO), the single high pressure injection system (EIS System Code: BJ), the automatic depressurization system and both divisions of the core spray system (EIS System Code: BM). CO3 is divided into two panels--one containing Division I and the other Division II. The plant construction specification for divisional separation (General Electric Specification 22A2501, "Separation Requirements for Reactor Safety and Engineered Safeguards Systems") requires:

Floor- to-panel fire barriers must be provided between adjacent panels having closed ends.

The fiberboard barrier used to provide separation in CO3 was found out of position.

### Cause

During modifications, or other work, the fiberboard barrier may have been bumped or moved. The fiberboard is located below the flange of the panel (see attached figure) and not easily identifiable. It is not known how long this barrier was out of place.

No recent work has been performed in this area.

<sup>1</sup> "Panel" is the term used by the plant architect engineer to identify the different control board sections. "Panel" refers to the entire metal enclosure or cabinet, not just a surface.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**  
**TEXT CONTINUATION**

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				YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT		05000 263		96	010	00	3 of 5

Analysis of Repeatability

The improper position of this panel fire barrier placed the plant in a situation where a fire in C03 could have possibly been transmitted from one division to the other. Since both divisions could be affected, the plant was outside its design bases. 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.73(a)(2)(ii) states that the licensee shall report, "Any event or condition that resulted in a condition of the nuclear power plant . . . being: . . . (B) In a condition that was outside the design basis of the plant;"

This report is being submitted in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B).

Safety Significance

The control board panels do not contain unnecessary combustible materials. In the event of a fault or electrical fire which could affect divisional separation, the fiberboard would inhibit the material or flames from entering the adjacent panel. With the panel fire barrier out of position, both divisions on CO3 could have been affected by the fire. This is a very unlikely scenario due to the lack of combustibles and due to the location and size of the opening. The opening is located at the bottom of the panel side. The height of the opening is 3 inches.

In addition, the control room is staffed 100% of the time and any fire would have been quickly identified and extinguished. Smoke detectors are installed in the control room. In the unlikely situation a fire was not extinguished, an alternate shutdown panel is available for safe shutdown of the plant.

Therefore, the safety significance of this panel fire barrier being out of position is minimal.

Actions

## Immediate Actions

1. The barrier was restored to its proper position (Work Order # 9602694).
2. Other barriers in C04 and C08 in the control room were checked. All of these barriers were found in the proper position (Work Order # 9602695).

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				YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT		05000 263		96	010	00	4 of 5

**Corrective Actions**

The immediate corrective actions corrected the condition.

**Preventive Actions**

Panel fire barriers like the one found out of position will be periodically verified to be in the proper position.

**Failed Component Identification - None****Previous Similar Events**

There have been previous events associated with 10 CFR 50, Appendix R fire barriers. However, this was not an Appendix R fire barrier and not part of the corrective actions for the previous events.

LER 91-009 involved another separation issue. The corrective action of this LER focused on cable routing separation. Panel fire barriers were not within the scope of this review.

# LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

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MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT	05000 263	96	010	00	5 of 5

## Location of Misplaced Fire Barrier

