

May 9, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-043

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility
Northern States Power Co.
Monticello 1
Monticello, Minnesota
Dockets: 50-263

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

Subject: SHUTDOWN TO REPLACE TORUS STRAINERS ON ECCS SUCTION LINES

At 1 p.m. on May 9, 1997, the licensee began shutting down the reactor pending replacement of strainers on the suction lines from the pressure suppression pool (torus) to various emergency core cooling systems (ECCS).

The strainers are being replaced as a result of discussions between the licensee and the NRC staff on the effects of strainer clogging under certain specific accident conditions outside the original license basis. In a large break loss of coolant accident, fibrous insulation material from the containment could clog the strainers and diminish the low-pressure ECCS system flow below that required.

The decision to shutdown and replace the strainers was conservatively made by the licensee.

The existing strainers on each of four suction lines are a truncated cone design about 17 inches in diameter and 10 inches long. Each strainer will be replaced with two larger strainers, each of which is 40 inches in diameter and 84 inches long. The licensee has issued a contract for the new strainers. Fabrication and delivery may take up to three months with an additional three weeks required to install the new strainers. The plant will remain shutdown until the replacement is completed.

The State of Minnesota will be informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee intends to issue a news release on the shutdown.

Region III (Chicago) was notified of the shutdown by the licensee at 10:45 a.m. (CDT) on May 9, 1997. This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. (CDT) on May 9, 1997.

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