

Date- Tue, 25 Apr 2000 112229 -0600
From Meredith Brown racer@lanl.gov
Subject: Blue Alert- Loss of Monitoring System Indication

Title: Blue Alert- Inattention to Detail Results in Loss of Central Monitoring System Indication

Date April 20, 2000 Identifier 2000-ALO-WID-0004

Lessons Learned Statement- Verify system configuration prior to initiating changes. Make sure that the results of any action are understood before the action is taken.

Discussion of Activities- The Central Monitoring Room at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant experienced a short duration loss of power from the Central Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS), resulting in loss of Central Monitoring System (CMS) indication in the Central Monitoring Room. The UPS outage and loss of CMS indication in the Central Monitoring Room had a duration of approximately five minutes. When the CMS monitors in the Central Monitoring Room were de-energized, the Facility Shift Manager quickly and correctly identified the cause as a loss of the Central UPS associated with a preventive maintenance evolution in progress on the UPS. The Facility Shift Manager proceeded directly to the equipment room where the UPS is located, contacting the Facility Engineer by radio en route. The Facility Engineer realigned the UPS power, restoring CMS indication in the CMR by the time the Facility Shift Manager arrived at the UPS. The Facility Shift Manager shut down all activities associated with the UPS to determine system configuration and evaluate the cause of the event. The Facility Shift Manager returned to the Central Monitoring Room to verify recovery of the CMS system.

Analysis- A critique of the event was conducted to determine the sequence of actions, the observations of the personnel involved, and the cause of the outage. The direct cause of this event was misalignment of the system power by the on duty Facility Engineer. In response to questions by the Facility Technicians, who stopped work in the field to obtain guidance on the appropriate system configuration to support the vendor in performing maintenance, the engineer did not adequately comprehend the system configuration or the consequences of the actions he took in response to the situation. Although the applicable procedure was being used, misalignment resulted from implementing the wrong section of the procedure based on the engineer not accurately assessing the as-found configuration of the system. Failure to establish control of the system and the evolution in progress and determine appropriate actions to support the activity resulted in a loss of plant indication in the Central Monitoring Room.

Recommended Actions

- * Verify system configuration prior to initiating changes.
- * Make sure that the results of any action are understood before the action is taken.
- * Exercise control over plant activities and evolutions to minimize confusion

Priority Descriptor Blue/Informational
Work/Function(s) Conduct of Operations - General
User-Defined Category Operator error
Hazards Other
ISM Core Functions(s) Analyze Hazards
Originator Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Waste Isolation Division,
Carlsbad, New Mexico
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Authorized Derivative Classifier Not applicable
Reviewing Official J. R. Galle
Keywords Loss of power, Operator error, UPS
References WIPP Lessons Learned Bulletin, Subject Inattention to Detail Results in Loss Of
CMS Indication