



ODCM 2.1

Palo Verde Nuclear
Generating Station

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-37
Washington, D C 20555-0001

Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 3
Docket No. STN 50-530
Special Report 3-SR-2003-001**

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-2003-001 prepared and submitted pursuant to the PVNGS Offsite Dose Calculation Manual requirements. This report discusses the inoperability of the plant ventilation system high range radioactive gaseous effluent monitor for more than seventy-two (72) hours.

No commitments are being made to the NRC by this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Marks, Section Leader, Compliance, at (623) 393-6492.

Sincerely,

GRO/SAB/REB/kg

Attachment

cc: E. W. Merschoff (Region IV) (all with attachment)
J. N. Donohew
N. L. Salgado

A member of the **STARS** (Strategic Teaming and Resource Sharing) Alliance

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Attachment

Special Report No. 3-SR-2003-001

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3

Special Report No. 3-SR-2003-001

Plant Ventilation Radioactive Gaseous Effluent High Range Monitoring Instrumentation Inoperable

Docket No. STN 50-530

Initial Conditions:

At approximately 0820 MST on March 4, 2003, Palo Verde Unit 3 was operating at approximately 99 percent power when the Plant Ventilation Radioactive Gaseous Effluent High Range Monitor (RU-144) was declared inoperable to perform surveillance testing.

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to the ODCM requirement 2.1, ACTION 42(b) to prepare and submit a Special Report to the Commission within 30 days if the monitor is not restored within 72 hours. The 72-hour period for returning the monitor to an operable status expired at approximately 0820 MST on March 7, 2003 with the monitor not operable.

Actions Taken:

The Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program for RU-144 to monitor the plant ventilation system exhaust was implemented pursuant to the ODCM requirement 2.1, ACTION 42(a) on March 7, 2003 at approximately 1000 MST. On March 7, 2003 at approximately 1635 MST, the monitor was declared OPERABLE following successful completion of maintenance and surveillance testing activities.

Cause of the Inoperability:

The cause for exceeding the 72 hours allowed by ODCM 2.1, Action 42(b) was a combination of scheduled surveillance testing and subsequent maintenance activities. During the performance of the testing, problems were encountered with the testing geometry, the check source, and procedure steps. In addition, problems were encountered with the low range radiation monitor (RU-143) associated with RU-144. The cumulative effect of these issues resulted in RU-144 being out of service for approximately 80 hours and 15 minutes.

Plans and Schedule for Restoring the Channels to OPERABLE Status:

On March 7, 2003 at approximately 1635 MST, the monitor was returned to service and declared OPERABLE. The total elapsed time of the inoperability was 80 hours and 15 minutes.