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HAYNES, J. G. Arizona Nuclear Power Project (formerly Arizona Public Serv
RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
MARTIN, J. B. Region 5, Office of Director

SUBJECT: Special Rept 1-SR-87-010: on 870224, condenser evacuation sys high range radiation monitors declared inoperable when continuous low flow alarms received. Caused by water in sample tube. Boards replaced & monitors retested.

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Arizona Nuclear Power Project
P.O. BOX 52034 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85072-2034

192-00183-JGH/TRB/MJC
March 30, 1987

Mr. John B. Martin, Regional Administrator
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5368

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-528 (License NPF-41)
Special Report 1-SR-87-010
File: 87-020-404

Dear Mr. Martin:

Attached please find a Special Report 1-SR-87-010 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.9 and 6.9.2. This report discusses a radiation monitor that was inoperable for greater than 72 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Bradish, Compliance Supervisor at (602) 932-5300, Ext. 6936.

Very truly yours,

JG Haynes

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TRB/MJC/cld

Attachment

cc: O. M. DeMichele (all w/a)
E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
R. P. Zimmerman
R. C. Sorenson
E. A. Licitra
A. C. Gehr
INPO Records Center

IE 01

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNIT 1

Condenser Evacuation System Radiation Monitor Inoperable for Greater Than 72 Hours

Docket No. STN 50-528

License No. NPF-41

Special Report No. 1-SR-87-010

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification (T.S.) 3.3.3.9 ACTION 42b and T.S. 6.9.2 to report an event in which a Condenser Evacuation System high range radiation monitor (RU-142) was inoperable for greater than 72 hours following entry into Mode 4 (HOT SHUTDOWN). The 72 hour limit for operability was exceeded at approximately 1604 MST on March 4, 1987. Pursuant to T.S. 3.3.3.9 ACTION 42a the Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program was initiated to monitor the Condenser Evacuation System.

Monitors RU-141 and RU-142 monitor the Condenser Evacuation System for gaseous activity resulting from primary to secondary system leakage. These monitors work as a pair with RU-141 being the low range monitor and RU-142 being the high range monitor. Normal configuration consists of RU-141 operating and RU-142 in standby. When RU-141 reaches it's maximum range, RU-142 starts and RU-141 goes to standby. RU-141 and RU-142 are required to be operable in Modes 1, 2, 3 and 4. The provisions of T.S. 3.0.3 and T.S. 3.0.4 are not applicable.

At approximately 2300 on February 24, 1987, Palo Verde Unit 1 was in Mode 5 (COLD SHUTDOWN) for a maintenance outage when continuous low flow alarms were received on RU-141. Since RU-141 and RU-142 work as a pair, both monitors were declared inoperable to allow corrective maintenance to be performed on RU-141.

Troubleshooting conducted under an authorized work document revealed that the flow transmitter and the flow indicator boards had malfunctioned. During troubleshooting, water was found in the RU-141 sample tube and is believed to be the cause of the flow transmitter and flow indicator board malfunction. As corrective action the boards were replaced.

Prior to this event the condenser evacuation system was in operation. As a conservative measure the condenser was being evacuated through the normal exhaust to pass potentially contaminated air through the charcoal filters and RU-141. This resulted in water accumulating in the RU-141 sample line. This is not the usual exhaust path in Mode 5 since RU-141 is not required.

At approximately 1604 MST on March 1, 1987 T.S. ACTION 42 was entered when Palo Verde Unit 1 entered Mode 4 (HOT SHUTDOWN) with RU-142 inoperable. RU-141 and RU-142 were declared operable at approximately 1430 MST on March 5, 1987 following the successful performance of 36ST-9SQ04 (Radiation Monitoring Quarterly Functional Test). The Unit was in ACTION 42 for 4 days and 26 minutes.