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SUBJECT: Special Rept 3-SR-87-006: on 880117, loose-part instrumentation for more than 30 days. Calibr will be performed by end of first outage. Periodic audio check will be performed until instrument operable.

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NOTES: Standardized plant. 05000530

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192-00339-JGH/TDS/JEM
January 25, 1988

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NRC Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 3
Docket No. STN 50-530 (License No. NPF-74)
Special Report 3-SR-87-006
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-87-006 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.7. Action Statement "a" and 6.9.2. This report discusses the Loose-Part Detection Instrumentation being inoperable greater than 30 days.

If you have any questions, please contact T. D. Shriver, Compliance Manager at (602) 393-2521.

Very truly yours,

JG Haynes

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TDS/JEM/kj

Attachment

cc: O. M. DeMichele (all w/a)
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INPO Records Center

IE22
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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

LOOSE-PART DETECTION INSTRUMENTATION

License No. NPF-74

Docket No. 50-530

Special Report No. 3-SR-87-006

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.7 ACTION "a" and Technical Specification 6.9.2. This report addresses an event where the loose-part detection instrumentation was inoperable for more than 30 days. The 30 day period for returning the system to an operable status was exceeded at approximately 0728 on January 17, 1988.

The loose-part detection instrumentation was originally declared inoperable pending the assimilation and evaluation of base line data. The data was obtained during power ascension testing; however, the instrumentation has remained inoperable due to a high rate of spurious alarms. The alarms have been verified, with a spectrum analyzer, to be spurious. A site modification has been issued which requires modification of selected circuit cards. The modifications are expected to reduce the spurious alarm rate. Addtionally, some of the alarms are being cleared by adjusting the setpoints above the background noise. Although this calibration technique is not considered a permanent corrective measure it will permit the indication of a dynamic change in the Reactor Coolant System. Changes such as these may be indicative of a "loose part" and and alert the operators to take additional actions as necessary. The instrumentation remains available for data collection.

In order to restore the loose-part detection instrumentation to an operable status the alarm circuitry must be calibrated from the installed sensors. The sensors are located on reactor coolant piping and on the reactor vessel. Therefore, the circuits cannot be calibrated while the unit is operating. It is planned to have the loose-part detection instrumentation calibrated by the end of the first outage of sufficient duration which will permit the required access.

As a prudent measure the Shift Technical Advisors will periodically perform a channel audio check until the instrumentation is returned to an operable status. This check should detect noise changes in the Reactor Coolant System that may be indicative of a loose part.