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SUBJECT: Forwards suppl to Special Rept 2-SR-86-037 prepared &
 submitted, per Tech Specs 3.3.3.1 & 6.9.2. Rept. discusses
 inoperability of containment bldg atmosphere radiation
 monitor for more than 72 h.

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NOTES: Standardized plant.

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October 23, 1987

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

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 2
Docket No. STN 50-529 (License NPF-51)
Supplement to Special Report 2-SR-86-037
File: 87-020-404

Attached please find a Supplement to Special Report 2-SR-86-037 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.1 and 6.9.2. This report discusses the inoperability of the Containment Building Atmosphere Radiation Monitor for greater than 72 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Bradish, Compliance Supervisor at (602) 393-3531.

Very truly yours,

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TRB/JHT/cld

Attachment

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable For Greater Than 72 Hours

Special Report No. 2-SR-86-037-01

Docket No. STN 50-529

License No. NPF-51

At 2130 on November 4, 1986, Palo Verde Unit 2 was at 100 percent reactor power, when the Containment Building Atmosphere Monitor (RU-1) was declared inoperable because it was generating filter step alarms. A moveable air monitor was placed in line to comply with Technical Specification Table 3.3-6 ACTION 23. At 0818 on November 7, 1986, the gaseous channel of RU-1 was returned to service however the particulate channel remained inoperable pending completion of troubleshooting. Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 Table 3.3-6 ACTION 27 requires that a special report be submitted to the NRC pursuant to Specification 6.9.2 within 30 days after the number of operable channels is less than required by the minimum channels operable requirement for greater than 72 hours. In order to comply with Technical Specification Table 3.3-6 ACTION 23 and 27 the moveable air monitor was maintained in service.

RU-1 is used to detect Reactor Coolant System leakage. One of its functions is to measure particulate activity. The monitor accomplishes this by passing a sample of containment atmosphere through a filter paper. The paper is monitored for radioactive particulates that become entrapped in the fibers. The paper is moved at periodic preset intervals or steps. If a complete step of the filter paper does not occur, a filter paper step alarm will be generated.

The filter step function has historically required high maintenance to be maintained operable so a change to the step function was conducted. The filter has been changed from a step function to a fixed filter. This completely eliminates the problem with the filter step function and will prevent recurrence of this event.

At 2155 on November 10, 1986, the applicable surveillance test was performed and the particulate channel was declared operable.