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SUBJECT: Special Rept 2-SR-87-027: on 871009, high range noble gas monitor inoperable for greater than 72 h. Caused by malfunctioning of RU-143 SMIC display board. Display board replaced.

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192-00308-JGH-TRB/KCP
November 5, 1987

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

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 2
Docket No. STN 50-529 (License NPF-51)
Special Report 2-SR-87-027
File: 87-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 2-SR-87-027 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.8 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 T. R. Bradish, Compliance Supervisor at (602) 393-3531.

Very truly yours,

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TRB/KCP/cld

Attachment

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

RADIATION MONITORING UNIT INOPERABLE FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

License No. NPF-51

Docket No. STN 50-529

Special Report No. 2-SR-87-027

This Special Report is being submitted in accordance with Technical Specification (T.S.) 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42 (b) and 6.9.2 to report an event in which a high range noble gas monitor was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for inoperability was exceeded at approximately 1010 MST on October 9, 1987.

At approximately 1010 MST on October 6, 1987, the Plant Vent Low and High Range Monitors (RU-143/144) were declared inoperable to permit surveillance testing in accordance with 36ST-9SQ04, "Radiation Monitoring Quarterly Functional Test." As a prerequisite to testing, rework was required for a faulty display on the skid mounted indicator and control unit (SMIC) for RU-143. Compensatory measures were established in accordance with the applicable requirements of T.S. 3.3.3.8, ACTIONS 36, 37, 40 and 42.

Monitors RU-143 and RU-144 monitor the plant vent exhaust for particulate, iodine and gaseous activity. The monitors work as a pair, with RU-143 as the low range monitor and RU-144 as the high range monitor. Normal configuration consists of RU-143 operating with RU-144 in standby. When RU-143 reaches its maximum range, RU-144 starts and RU-143 goes to standby. RU-143 and RU-144 are required to be operable at all times. Since the monitors operate in tandem, RU-144 must be declared inoperable if RU-143 is inoperable.

Subsequent evaluation revealed that the RU-143 SMIC display board would not light one of the hexidecimal light emitting diodes (LEDs). The display board was replaced and functionally tested as satisfactory, but RU-143 and RU-144 remained inoperable to support ongoing surveillance testing activities. These testing activities identified an additional, separate problem in which a defective data relay board on RU-144 prevented the monitor from being placed on-line from the Radiation Monitoring System minicomputer terminal. The data relay board was replaced under an approved work document, and testing resumed. A root cause of the evaluation of the defective SMIC display board and data relay board has been initiated to determine why these components failed.

At approximately 1400 MST on October 12, 1987, RU-143 and RU-144 were declared operable after satisfactory completion of surveillance testing. The duration of this event was approximately 6 days.