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October 20, 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-88-006
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-88-006 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42(b) and 6.9.2. This report discusses an inoperable radiation monitoring unit.

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

Very truly yours,

J. G. Haynes

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TDS/DAJ/kj

Attachment

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable For Greater than 72 Hours

License No. NPF-74

Docket No. STN 50-530

Special Report No. 3-SR 88-006

This Special Report is submitted in accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42(b) and 6.9.2 for an event in which the Condenser Evacuation System high range effluent monitor (RU-142) was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for inoperability was exceeded at approximately 0000 MST on October 9, 1988.

At approximately 0000 MST on October 6, 1988 RU-142 was declared inoperable as a result of the Condenser Evacuation System low range noble gas effluent monitor (RU-141) being declared inoperable due to erratic trend indication. Radioactive effluent monitor RU-141 continuously monitors the condenser vacuum pump/gland seal exhaust for gaseous activity resulting from primary to secondary leakage. Monitors RU-141 and RU-142 work as a pair with RU-141 as the low range monitor and RU-142 as the high range monitor. Normal configuration consists of RU-141 operating with RU-142 in standby. Low Range Monitor RU-141 automatically starts RU-142 and initiates filtration of the condenser vacuum pump/gland seal exhaust whenever the monitor registers a HIGH-HIGH alarm condition. RU-142 is provided for tracking radioactive effluents during postulated accident scenarios. RU-142 must be declared inoperable when RU-141 is inoperable.

Pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 37, the Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program (PASP) was initiated at approximately 0000 MST on October 6, 1988. Implementation of the PASP continued until the radiation monitoring units were returned to service.

An approved work document was initiated to troubleshoot the cause of the erratic RU-141 indication. During troubleshooting, it was identified that the cause of the erratic indication was a loose and/or dirty detector connection. The detector connection was cleaned and the detector appeared to function properly. Following the troubleshooting, the appropriate retests were performed and RU-141 was returned to service at approximately 1815 MST on October 10, 1988. RU-141 was inoperable approximately 114 hours and 15 minutes.

In order to return RU-142 to service, appropriate surveillance testing was performed. During the surveillance testing, it was discovered that the check source did not respond properly and RU-142 was left inoperable for troubleshooting. An approved work document was initiated and following cleaning and minor adjustment of the check source the check source operated properly. The appropriate retests were then performed and RU-142 was returned to service at approximately 1817 MST on October 12, 1988. RU-142 was inoperable for approximately 162 hours and 17 minutes.