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 FACIL: STN-50-529 Palo Verde Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Arizona Publi 05000529
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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 2-SR-87-005: on 870308, high range noble gas activity monitor (RU-146) inoperable for greater than 72 h. Caused by random cycling alarms to micro computer software. Plant Change Request PCR 87-13-SQ-020 initiated.

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NOTES: Standardized plant. M. Davis, NRR: 1Cy.

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	NRR/DEST/NEB	1 1	NRR/DEST/MTB	1 1
	NRR/DEST/PSB	1 1	NRR/DEST/RSB	1 1
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	NRR/DREP/RPB	2 2	NRR/PMAS/ILRB	1 1
	NRR/PMAS/PTSB	1 1	REC FILE 02	1 1
	RES SPEIS, T	1 1	RGN5 FILE 01	1 1
EXTERNAL:	EG&G GROH, M	5 5	H ST LOBBY WARD	1 1
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192-001775 JGH/TRB/ESP

April 3, 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 2
Docket No. STN 50-529 (License NPF-51)
Special Report 2-SR-87-005
File: 87-020-404

Dear Mr. Martin:

Attached please find a Special Report 2-SR-87-005 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.9 and 6.9.2. This report discusses a Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable Greater than 72 hours.

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

Very truly yours,

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TRB/ESP/cld

Attachment

cc: O. M. DeMichele (all w/a)
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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-87-005

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 high range noble gas activity monitor (RU-146) was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for operability was exceeded at approximately 2252 MST on March 8, 1987. Pursuant to T.S. 3.3.3.9 ACTION 42a the Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program was initiated to monitor the plant ventilation system.

At approximately 2252 MST on March 5, 1987, Palo Verde Unit 2 was in Mode 3 (HOT STANDBY) for a surveillance outage when RU-146 was taken out of service to allow the replacement of erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM) chips in the micro computer, as a system upgrade. To return RU-146 to service, 36ST-9ZZ04 (Radiation Monitoring Quarterly Functional Test) was initiated. In accordance with 36ST-9ZZ04, alarms were initiated to test the monitor. These alarms should have been continuous, however, the alarms would cycle off and then on again at random intervals. This problem only occurred at the radiation monitoring system mini computer, all other loop indications were normal.

Troubleshooting conducted under an authorized work document attributed the cause of the random cycling alarms to the micro computer software. As corrective action, Plant Change Request (PCR) 87-13-SQ-020 was initiated to correct the micro computer software. As additional corrective action, an Engineering Evaluation Request (EER) 87-SQ-101 was initiated to address the potential of similar cases in other monitors encompassing all three units. The disposition of this EER determined that all effected monitors are operable since these cycling alarms do not affect the monitors' ability to detect radiation. This software problem exists in this software revision, as well as previous software revisions.

To return RU-144 to service, Quarterly Functional Test (36ST-9SQ04) was successfully performed. The monitor was declared operable at 1413 on March 16, 1987. The monitor was unavailable for 10 days 15 hours and 21 minutes.

