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SUBJECT: Special Rept 2-SR-87-013: on 870421, process monitor RU-1 inoperable for more than 72 h due to frequent failure alarms. Caused by voltage spikes on grounding sys. Mod initiated to replace moving filter assembly w/fixed filter.

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NOTES: Standardized plant. M. Davis, NRR: 1Cy. 05000529

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May 18, 1987

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

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 2
Docket No. STN 50-529 (License NPF-51)
Special Report 2-SR-87-013
File: 87-020-404

Dear Sirs:

Attached please find a Special Report 2-SR-87-013 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.1 and 6.9.2. This report discusses a Radiation Monitoring Unit inoperable for 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/JEM/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-87-013

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 ACTION 27 and Technical Specification 6.9.2 to report an event in which a process monitor, Containment Building Atmosphere RU-1, was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for operability was exceeded at approximately 0700 MST on April 24, 1987. Pursuant to Technical Specifiction 3.3.3.1 ACTION 27 a moveable air monitor (RU-53) was placed in line to monitor the Containment Building atmosphere.

At approximately 0700 MST on April 21, 1987 Palo Verde Unit 2 was in Mode 1 (POWER OPERATION) when RU-1 was declared inoperable due to frequent Filter Failure Alarms. Troubleshooting and repair, in accordance with an approved work control document, resulted in the replacement of the filter mechanism and a transistor logic board. However, this action did not alleviate the alarms. Additional troubleshooting revealed voltage spikes on the grounding system. The voltage spikes were traced to the sample pump motor starter circuit. The motor starter circuit was replaced with a new circuit. The new starter circuit reduced the voltage spikes but did not alleviate the filter alarms. Troubleshooting is continuing in an effort to identify and correct the voltage spike problems.

Due to the continued intermittent filter failure alarms a modification to RU-1 will be implemented during the week of May 18, 1987. This modification will replace the moving filter assembly with a fixed filter. This is expected to eliminate the filter failure alarms. It is expected that RU-1 should be returned to operability by June 1, 1987. A schedule for implementation of this modification on other similar monitors will be developed.