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SUBJECT: Special Rept 1-SR-87-024: on 871117, radiation monitoring unit inoperable for greater than 72 h.

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192-00320-JGH/TRB/DAJ

December 14, 1987

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

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-528 (License No. NPF-41)
Special Report 1-SR-87-024
File: 87-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 1-SR-87-024 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 Action 42b and 6.9.2. This report discusses a Radiation Monitoring unit inoperable for greater than 72 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact J. E. Malik, (Acting) Compliance Lead at (602) 393-3527.

Very truly yours,

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/JEM/kj

Attachment

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable for Greater Than 72 Hours

License No. NPF-41

Docket No. STN 50-528

Special Report No. 1-SR-87-024

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42b and Technical Specification 6.9.2 to report an event in which a Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitor (Plant Vent High Range Gaseous Activity Monitor RU-144), was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for returning to operability was exceeded at approximately 0959 MST on November 20, 1987. Pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42a the Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program was initiated to monitor the Plant Vent System.

At approximately 0959 MST on November 17, 1987, Palo Verde Unit 1 was in Mode 6 (REFUELING) when the Plant Vent System Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitors, low range RU-143 and high range RU-144, were declared inoperable for 18 month surveillance testing. During the surveillance testing, it was discovered that an excessive slope was exhibited by the RU-144 channel one detector. The unsatisfactory slope obtained during the surveillance testing is a normal and expected condition attributable to detector aging. The detector was replaced and surveillance testing conducted to calibrate the detector and return the monitor to service. RU-144 was returned to service at approximately 1738 MST on November 22, 1987. The monitor was out of service for approximately 127 hours 39 minutes.

Monitors RU-143 and RU-144 work as a pair with RU-143 being the low range monitor and RU-144 being the high range monitor. Normal configuration consists of RU-143 operating and RU-144 in standby. When RU-143 reaches a predetermined point, RU-144 starts and RU-143 goes to standby. RU-144 is provided for tracking of postulated accident releases. The unsatisfactory slope exhibited by the detector is not considered to have any adverse impact on the health and safety of the public since there have been no accident situations at Palo Verde which required operation of RU-144.

