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SUBJECT: Special Rept 2-SR-87-029: on 871123, radiation monitoring unit
 inoperable for greater than 72 h.

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NOTES: Standardized plant.

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Arizona Nuclear Power Project

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192-00327-JGH/TRB/DAJ
December 24, 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 No. NPF-51)
Special Report 2-SR-87-029
File: 87-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 2-SR-87-029 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 Action 42b and 6.9.2. This report discusses a High Range Noble Gas Monitor that was inoperable for over 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/KCP/kj

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-87-029

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 (RU-142) was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for inoperability was exceeded at approximately 1308 MST on November 26, 1987.

At approximately 1308 MST on November 23, 1987 Palo Verde Unit 2 was in Mode 3 (HOT STANDBY) at 0 percent power when the Condenser Vacuum Pump/Gland Seal Exhaust Low and High Range Monitors (RU-141/142) were declared inoperable and placed in bypass due to water in the RU-141 sample line.

Monitors RU-141 and RU-142 monitor the condenser vacuum pump/gland seal exhaust for release of activity resulting from primary to secondary leakage. RU-141 provides automatic initiation of filtration of the condenser vacuum pump/gland exhaust whenever the monitor channel is in a HIGH-HIGH alarm condition. 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 and RU-142 in standby. When RU-141 reaches a predetermined setpoint, RU-142 starts and RU-141 goes to standby. RU-141 and RU-142 are required to be operable in Modes 1 through 4. Since RU-141 and RU-142 work in tandem, RU-142 must be declared inoperable if RU-141 is placed in an inoperable status.

As immediate corrective action the appropriate compensatory measures were initiated to obtain flow rate estimates, grab samples, and continuous particulate and iodine samples in accordance with T. S. 3.3.3.8 ACTIONS 36, 37, and 40. Troubleshooting revealed that approximately one quart of water had accumulated in the detector cavity of the monitor. It was determined that the water accumulated in the cavity from the installed sample lines due to the high moisture content of the monitored exhaust. The accumulated water was drained from the sample line and detector cavity, and the detector cavity dried out and restored to an operable condition. This work was completed at approximately 1530 on November 27, 1987, and surveillance testing initiated in accordance with 36ST-9SQ07, "Radiation Monitoring Calibration Test for New Scope Process Monitors," and 75ST-9ZZ07, "Effluent Monitoring System Daily Surveillance Testing". In addition, RU-141 and RU-142 were placed under observation for several days to verify proper operation of the monitors. In order to preclude recurrence of this event in Unit 2, moisture traps are planned to be installed in the sample lines during the next refueling outage. A similar installation is in process for Unit 1, and has been completed for Unit 3.

At 1455 MST on November 30, 1987, RU-141 and RU-142 were declared operable following satisfactory completion of the surveillance testing noted above. The duration of this event was approximately 7 days.