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 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: Special Rept1-SR-88-003: on 880304, output breaker on Unit 1
 "B" diesel generator did not close properly during
 surveillance testing. Cause initiated. Approved work document
 to troubleshoot cause of breaker malfunction initiated.

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NOTES: Standardized plant.

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192-00358-JGH/TDS/DAJ
April 4, 1988

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-88-003
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 1-SR-88-003 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.3 and Technical Specification 6.9.2. This report discusses a valid emergency diesel generator failure.

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

Very truly yours,

J. G. Haynes
Vice President
Nuclear Production

JGH/TDS/DAJ/kj

Attachment

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNIT 1

Valid Diesel Generator Failure on March 4, 1988

Docket No. 50-528

License No. NPF-41

Special Report 1-SR-88-003

This Special Report describes an event involving a valid failure of an Emergency Diesel Generator. The report is provided pursuant to Technical Specifications 4.8.1.1.3 and 6.9.2 and contains the information recommended in Regulatory Position C.3.b of Regulatory Guide 1.108, Revision 1, August 1977.

At approximately 0120 MST on March 4, 1988 Palo Verde Unit 1 was in Mode 3 (HOT STANDBY) when an output breaker on the Unit 1 "B" Diesel Generator did not close properly during surveillance testing. Subsequent attempts were unsuccessful in closing the breaker and the diesel generator was declared inoperable at approximately 0135 MST. As a result of the "B" Diesel Generator inoperability, the appropriate activities were initiated to comply with Technical Specification ACTION requirement 3.8.1.1(b).

On March 4, 1988, surveillance testing was being conducted in accordance with approved procedures pursuant to Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.2 for demonstrating "B" Diesel Generator operability. The diesel generator was being tested on a monthly (i.e. once per 31 days) basis. At approximately 0120 MST, the "B" Emergency Diesel Generator was started in accordance with approved surveillance testing procedures. No problems were noted during the diesel generator start. While initially attempting to parallel the generator with the normal, off-site power supply, the output breaker would not close. Subsequent attempts were unsuccessful in closing the breaker.

As immediate corrective action, an approved work document to troubleshoot the cause of the breaker malfunction was initiated. During the troubleshooting, the breaker was placed in the "Test" mode. On the first attempt to close the breaker while in the "Test" mode, the breaker operated properly. The breaker was then placed in the "normal" position and the breaker operated properly. After the breaker was observed to operate properly, the emergency diesel was loaded and the remaining portions of the surveillance test completed successfully. Emergency Diesel Generator "B" was then declared operable at approximately 0622 MST. The diesel generator was unavailable for approximately five (5) hours.

After the diesel generator was returned to operability, an approved work document was initiated to perform a routine maintenance activity on the breaker. During the performance of the breaker maintenance, no discrepancies were identified and only minor (i.e. no affect on breaker operability) adjustments were necessary. A functional test of the breaker was then performed and no deficiencies were noted.

A root cause of failure engineering evaluation has been initiated to determine the cause of the improper breaker operation and the corrective actions to prevent recurrence. Additional corrective measures will be taken, as necessary, based upon the results of the root cause determination.

The emergency diesel failure described herein is the second (2) failure in the last 100 tests and the first (1) failure in the last twenty (20) tests on the "B" Diesel generator. Additionally, the number of failures in the last 100 diesel generator tests for Unit 1 is less than seven. Pursuant to Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.2, the current surveillance test interval (once per 31 days) will be continued.

