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SUBJECT: Special Rept 2-SR-88-003:on 880324,radioactive gaseous
 effluent monitor inoperable for more than 72 h.

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NOTES:Standardized plant.

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Arizona Nuclear Power Project

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192-00370-JGH/TDS/JEM
April 22, 1988

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-88-003
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 2-SR-88-003 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42b and Technical Specification 6.9.2. This report discusses a radiation monitoring unit inoperable for greater than 72 hours.

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/JEM/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-88-004

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification (TS) 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42b and Technical Specification 6.9.2 to report an event in which the 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 1430 MST on March 27, 1988. 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 1430 MST on March 24, 1988, Palo Verde Unit 2 was shutdown for refueling with the core offloaded into the Spent Fuel Pool when the Plant Vent System Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitors, low range RU-143 and high range RU-144, were declared inoperable for implementation of a Plant Change Package (PCP) to improve the reliability of the radiation monitoring system. 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. Since RU-143 and RU-144 work in tandem, both monitors must be declared inoperable if the other is out of service.

An authorized work document was issued to implement the PCP for RU-143 and to change its default parameters. In the event of a Loss of Power (LOP), the default parameter provides conservative setpoints upon restoration of power. The new default parameter will improve the reliability of RU-143 by assuring that the setpoints provide sufficient operating margin to minimize spurious alarms but are still conservative to ensure that the limits of TS 3.11.2.1 are not exceeded.

After the new software was installed, which incorporate the new default values, the proper flow rates could not be achieved. An authorized work document was issued to troubleshoot, rework, replace components to correct the problem. It was identified that there were incorrect flow values in the software. The original software was reinstalled, appropriate surveillance testing performed satisfactorily, and RU-143 and RU-144 were returned to an operable status at 0330 on April 6, 1988. The monitors were inoperable for approximately 12 days and 13 hours.

The new revision software is planned to be ready for installation by April 26, 1988. After appropriate retesting and surveillance testing it is planned to have RU-143 and RU-144 operable with the new software by April 29, 1988.

