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SUBJECT: Special rept:on 880516,radiation monitoring unit inoperable .
 for greater than 72 h.

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192-00384-JGH/TDS/DAJ

June 15, 1988

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

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 3
Docket No. STN 50-530 (License No. NPF-74)
Special Report 3-SR-88-001
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-88-001 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.1 and 6.9.2. This report discusses an inoperable Containment Building Atmosphere Monitor.

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

cc: D. B. Karner (all w/a)
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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable for Greater Than 72 Hours

License No. NPF-74

Docket No. STN 50-530

Special Report No. 3-SR-88-001

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 Radioactive Particulate/Gaseous Process Monitor (Containment Building Atmosphere Monitor, RU-1) was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for returning the monitor to operability was exceeded at approximately 0100 MST on May 19, 1988. The substitute monitor for RU-1 (RU-52) was placed in service prior to removing RU-1 from service fulfilling the requirements of Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 ACTION 27.

At approximately 0100 MST on May 16, 1988, Palo Verde Unit 3 was in Mode 1 (POWER OPERATION) at approximately 100 percent power when the Containment Building Atmosphere Monitor (RU-1) was declared inoperable for the performance of Surveillance Test 36ST-9SQ05, "Radiation Monitoring Calibration Test for Baseline Process Monitors." During the performance of the surveillance test, it was discovered that the flow totalizer exhibited an offset with no flow through the monitor.

An authorized work document was issued to troubleshoot/rework/replace components as necessary to correct the problem identified during the surveillance test. During troubleshooting it was identified that a flow transducer was not operating properly. The flow transducer and flow totalizer were replaced, and it was verified that RU-1 operated properly. An Engineering Evaluation Request has been submitted to perform a root cause of failure analysis on the malfunctioning components.

After satisfactory completion of 36ST-9SQ05, RU-1 was returned to service at approximately 1509 MST on May 20, 1988. The monitor was inoperable for approximately four days and fourteen hours.

