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SUBJECT: Special Rept 3-SR-88-005:on 880818,radiation monitoring unit inoperable for greater than 72 h.

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192-00408-JGH/TDS/DAJ
September 8, 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-88-005
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-88-005 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.8 and 6.9.2. This report discusses an inoperable radioactive effluent monitor

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

Very truly yours,

JG Haynes

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-88-005

This Special Report is submitted in accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42(b) and 6.9.2, for 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 0815 MST on August 18, 1988.

At approximately 0815 MST on August 15, 1988, with Palo Verde Unit 3 in Mode 3 (HOT STANDBY), the Condenser Vacuum Pump/Gland Seal Exhaust High Range Monitor (RU-142) was declared inoperable since the monitor would not stay on line. Radioactive effluent monitors RU-141 and RU-142 continuously monitor the condenser vacuum pump/gland seal exhaust for gaseous activity resulting from primary to secondary leakage. 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 with RU-142 in standby. Low Range Monitor RU-141 automatically starts RU-142 and initiates filtration of the condenser vacuum pump/gland seal exhaust whenever the monitor registers a HIGH-HIGH alarm condition. RU-142 is provided for tracking radioactive effluents during postulated accident scenarios.

An approved work document was initiated to troubleshoot the cause of the monitor malfunction and rework as necessary. During the troubleshooting, it was discovered that a system board was not operating properly. The system board is utilized by the monitor's microcomputer as an interface between the central processing unit and the peripheral monitor functions. The system board was replaced and the monitor appeared to be functioning properly. A root cause of failure engineering evaluation has been initiated for the malfunctioning monitor.

Following the performance of the troubleshooting and rework activities, the monitor was not returned to an OPERABLE status in order to support the performance of the scheduled 18-month surveillance testing. Following the satisfactory performance of 18-month surveillance testing, RU-142 will be returned to service. The monitor is expected to be returned to service by September 9, 1988.