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192-00439-JGH/TDS/DAJ
December 30, 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-88-008
File: 88-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-88-008 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42(b) and 6.9.2. This report discusses an inoperable radiation monitoring unit.

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/attachments)
E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
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INPO Records Center

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Radiation Monitoring Inoperable For Greater Than 72 Hours

License No. NPF-74

Docket No. STN 50-530

Special Report No. 3-SR-88-008

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 the Condenser Evacuation System high range effluent monitor (RU-142) was inoperable for greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour limit for inoperability was exceeded at approximately 2150 MST on December 8, 1988. Pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTIONS 37 and 40, the Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program (PASP) was initiated at approximately 2150 MST on December 5, 1988.

At approximately 2150 MST on December 5, 1988 RU-142 was declared inoperable as a result of the Condenser Evacuation System low range noble gas effluent monitor (RU-141) being declared inoperable due to erratic flow indication and grab sample results inconsistent with monitor indication. Radioactive effluent monitor RU-141 continuously monitors 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. RU-142 must be declared inoperable when RU-141 is inoperable.

An approved work document was initiated to troubleshoot the cause of the erratic RU-141 indication. During troubleshooting, it was identified that the erratic flow indication was caused by excessive water buildup in the water trap and filter line. The liquid caused flow restrictions which resulted in low flow alarms. After removing the water, the appropriate retests were performed and RU-141 was observed to be operating properly. However, RU-141 was not returned to service in order to evaluate and take appropriate action to correct the excessive moisture problem.

ANPP engineering determined that the excessive moisture buildup resulted from condensation of water vapor in the sample stream which was caused by low winter temperatures cooling the sample line. The low ambient temperatures caused the sample stream to cool off which resulted in entrained moisture condensation. In order to correct the moisture condensation, electrical resistance heating was applied to the sample lines. Following the appropriate retests, RU-141 and RU-142 were returned to service at approximately 1637 MST on December 14, 1988. RU-142 was inoperable approximately eight (8) days, nineteen (19) hours.