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SUBJECT: Special Rept 3-SR-88-007-01:on 881024 reactor vessel water
 level sys inoperable for more than 48 h.

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Arizona Public Service Company

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
P.O. BOX 52034 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85072-2034

192-00487-JGH/TDS/DAJ
June 5, 1989

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

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 3
Docket No. STN 50-530 (License NPF-74)
Supplement to Special Report 3-SR-88-007-01
File: 89-020-404

Attached please find Supplement 1 to Special Report 3-SR-88-007 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.6, Table 3.3-10, ACTION 32. This report discusses an inoperable Reactor Vessel Water Level System.

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

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNIT 3

Both Channels of the Reactor Vessel Water Level System Inoperable

License No. NPF-74

Docket No. 50-530

Special Report No. 3-SR-88-007-01

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Post Accident Monitoring Instrumentation Technical Specification 3.3.3.6, Table 3.3-10, ACTION STATEMENT 32 to report the inoperability of both channels of the Reactor Vessel Water Level System (RVWLS) for a period of greater than forty-eight (48) hours. The forty-eight hour time period expired on October 24, 1988 at approximately 1752 MST. RVWLS consists of two channels ("A" and "B"). Each channel utilizes eight (8) heated junction thermocouples (HJTC) to generate the signals for 8 indicated levels. There are four HJTC's in the Reactor Vessel head region and four HJTC's in the Reactor Vessel outlet plenum. HJTC output signals are processed to provide indication of reactor vessel water level. Level indication is provided on the Qualified Safety Parameter Display System (QSPDS).

As previously discussed in Special Report 3-SR-88-004 issued on August 22, 1988, RVWLS Channel "B" has been inoperable since July 25, 1988. On October 22, 1988 at approximately 1752 MST, Palo Verde Unit 3 was operating at approximately 100 percent power when QSPDS channel "A" was noted to be operating improperly and declared inoperable. As a result of QSPDS Channel "A" inoperability, RVWLS Channel "A" indication was not available and consequently also became inoperable.

An approved work document was initiated to determine the cause of the improper QSPDS operation and to perform the necessary rework to return QSPDS Channel "A" to service. During troubleshooting, it was identified that a communications board was malfunctioning. A replacement communications board was not immediately available on-site and efforts were undertaken to obtain a replacement board. On October 28, 1988 a replacement communications board was obtained and installed.

Following the installation of the new communications board, it was noted that the Emergency Response Facilities Data Acquisition and Display System (ERFDADS) data link with QSPDS was not operating properly. Troubleshooting could not determine the cause of the malfunction; however, since ERFDADS is not necessary for QSPDS and/or RVWLS operability, the troubleshooting efforts were terminated in order to return RVWLS to service. Further troubleshooting will be conducted in accordance with an approved work document during Unit 3's first refueling outage.

Appropriate retesting was performed on QSPDS channel "A" and it was declared operable at approximately 2002 MST on October 28, 1988. QSPDS and RVWLS were inoperable for approximately six days, two hours and ten minutes.

A Root Cause of Failure engineering evaluation was performed for the malfunctioning QSPDS channel "A" communications board. APS engineering personnel examined the communications board at the PVNGS rework facility. Several of the boards sub-components were tested and discovered to be operating properly. No cause for the malfunction could be determined. The type of board malfunction is the first that has occurred. Future communications board malfunctions will be trended to identify potential system problems.

