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SUBJECT: Special Rept 1-SR-90-003: on 900421, radiation monitoring unit
 inoperable greater than 72 h.

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

192-00659-JML/TRB/SBJ
May 11, 1990

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

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-528 (License No. NPF-41)
Special Report 1-SR-90-003
File: 90-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 1-SR-90-003 prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42(b) and 6.9.2. This report discusses a radiation monitor being inoperable for greater than 72 hours.

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

Very truly yours,

James M. Levine

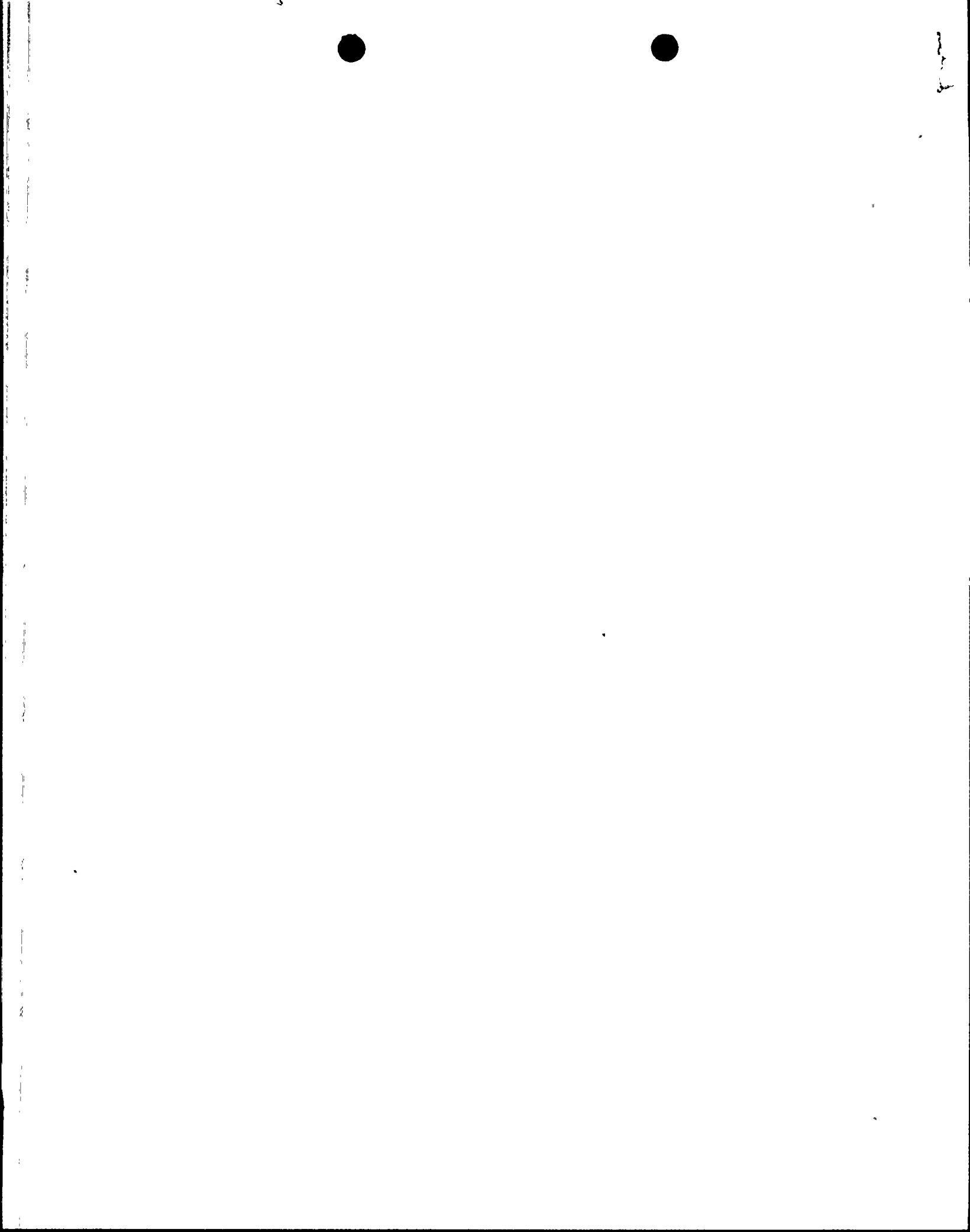
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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNIT 1

Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable Greater Than 72 Hours

License No. NPF-41

Docket No. 50-528

Special Report 1-SR-90-003

Initial Conditions:

On April 21, 1990 Palo Verde Unit 1 was in Mode 3 (HOT STANDBY) with the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) at approximately 1740 pounds per square inch absolute and 379 degrees Fahrenheit.

Description of Event:

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42b and Technical Specification 6.9.2 to report an event in which the Condenser Evacuation System High Range Effluent Monitor (RU-142) was inoperable greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour period for returning the monitor to service was exceeded at approximately 0210 MST on April 21, 1990.

On April 18, 1990 at approximately 0210 MST, RU-142 was declared inoperable as a result of the Condenser Evacuation System Low Range Effluent Monitor (RU-141) being declared inoperable because of unstable sample flow. The low range 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.

Cause of Event:

An approved work document was initiated to troubleshoot the cause of the unstable sample flow. The troubleshooting determined the cause of the unstable sample flow to be moisture accumulation in the flow element.

Corrective Actions:

The moisture accumulation was eliminated by the addition of heat tracing and insulation to the flow element, flow control valve, and associated tubing. RU-141 and 142 were declared operable on April 23, 1990 at approximately 1907 MST.

