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SUBJECT: Special Rept 3-SR-90-004:on 900509,radiation monitoring unit
 inoperable greater than 72 h.

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Arizona Public Service Company

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
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JAMES M. LEVINE
PRESIDENT

192-00670-JML/TRB/KR

June 5, 1990

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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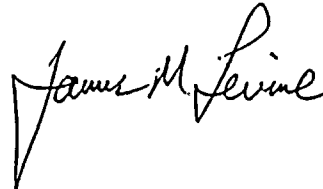
Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 3
Docket No. STN 50-530 (License No. NPF-74)
Special Report 3-SR-90-004
File: 90-020-404

Attached please find Special Report 3-SR-90-004 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 a period greater than 72 hours.

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

Very truly yours,



JML/TRB/KR/tlg

Attachment

cc: W. F. Conway (all w/attachment)
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T. L. Chan
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A. C. Gehr
A. H. Guttermann
INPO Records Center

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNIT 3

Radiation Monitoring Unit Inoperable Greater Than 72 Hours

License No. NPF-74

Docket No. 50-530

Special Report 3-SR-90-004

Initial Conditions:

On May 9, 1990 Palo Verde Unit 3 was in Mode 1 (POWER OPERATION) at approximately 100 percent power.

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 Fuel Building Ventilation System High Range Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitor (RU-146) was inoperable for a period greater than 72 hours. The 72 hour period for returning the monitor to service was exceeded at approximately 0943 MST on May 9, 1990.

On May 6, 1990 at approximately 0943 MST, Radiation Monitors RU-145 (Fuel Building Ventilation System Low Range Radioactive Effluent Monitor) and RU-146 were removed from service in accordance with an approved work document for scheduled 18 month calibration and surveillance. Radiation Monitors RU-145 and RU-146 monitor the Fuel Building Ventilation Exhaust for release of radioactivity due to a fuel handling accident. Radiation Monitors RU-145 and RU-146 work as a pair with RU-145 being the low range monitor for normal radioactive gaseous effluents and RU-146 being the high range monitor for post-accident radioactive gaseous effluents. Normal configuration consists of RU-145 operating and RU-146 in standby. When RU-145 reaches a predetermined setpoint, RU-146 starts and RU-145 goes to standby. RU-145 initiates a Fuel Building Essential Ventilation Actuation Signal (FBEVAS) when the activity exceeds a predetermined limit. Since RU-145 and RU-146 work in tandem, RU-146 must be declared inoperable if RU-145 is out of service. Pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8 ACTION 42.a, the Preplanned Alternate Sampling Program was initiated to monitor the Fuel Building Ventilation System.

During the performance of the calibration and surveillance, the RU-145 detector would not pass the surveillance testing acceptance criteria. Because the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of that detector is no longer in business, the same detector provided by a second manufacturer was installed. During installation testing of this detector, it saturated when the check source was activated. Engineering is investigating the problem related to the new detectors being more sensitive to the check source than the OEM detectors.

Cause of Event:

The cause of the event is that the detector's parameters (high voltage and counts per minute) could no longer be maintained to meet the surveillance testing acceptance criteria, which is an expected condition at the end of the detector's useful life.

Corrective Actions:

An engineering evaluation of the new detectors being more sensitive to the check source is being performed. Resolution of this issue and return to service of RU-145 and RU-146 are expected by June 15, 1990.

