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 FACIL: STN-50-529 Palo Verde Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Arizona Public 05000529
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 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: LER 94-008-00: on 940929, use of uncalibrated boronometer
 caused TS SR to be missed. On 940929, procedure 30DP-9MP09,
 "Preventive Maint Processes & Activities," had been revised
 to address type of condition. W/950207 ltr.

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 TITLE: 50.73/50.9 Licensee Event Report (LER), Incident Rpt, etc.

NOTES: Standardized plant.

05000529

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EXTERNAL:	L ST LOBBY WARD	1 1		LITCO BRYCE, J H	2 2
	NOAC MURPHY, G.A	1 1		NOAC POORE, W.	1 1
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AD-4

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

JAMES M. LEVINE
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

192-00919-JML/BAG/BE
February 7, 1995

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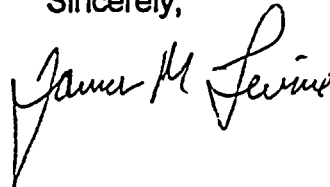
Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-529
License Nos. NPF-51
Licensee Event Report 94-008-00
File: 95-020-404

Attached please find Licensee Event Report (LER) 94-008 prepared and submitted pursuant to 10CFR50.73. This LER reports the identification of a condition where an uncalibrated piece of equipment was used to meet a TS SR. This resulted in the unit being in a condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications. In accordance with 10CFR50.73(d), a copy of this LER is being forwarded to the Regional Administrator, NRC Region IV.

If you have any questions, please contact Burton A. Grabo, Section Leader, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs, at (602) 393-6492.

Sincerely,



JML/BAG/BE

Attachment

cc: L. J. Callan (all with attachment)
K. E. Perkins
K. E. Johnston
INPO Records Center

9502160161 950207
PDR ADOCK 05000529
S PDR

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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1) Palo Verde Unit 2	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 5 2 9	PAGE (3) 1 OF 0 6
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TITLE (4) Use Of Uncalibrated Boronometer Caused A TS SR To Be Missed

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAMES	DOCKET NUMBERS
0 9	2 9	9 4	9 4	- 0 0 8	- 0 0	0 2	0 7	9 5	N/A	0 5 0 0 0
									N/A	0 5 0 0 0

OPERATING MODE (9) **5**

POWER LEVEL (10) **0 0 0**

THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more of the following) (11)

20.402(b)	20.405(c)	50.73(a)(2)(iv)	73.71(b)
20.405(a)(1)(i)	50.38(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	73.71(c)
20.405(a)(1)(ii)	50.38(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)	OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 368A)
20.405(a)(1)(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)	
20.405(a)(1)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)	
20.405(a)(1)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)	50.73(a)(2)(ix)	

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME Burton A. Grabo, Section Leader, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs	TELEPHONE NUMBER 6 0 2 3 9 3 - 6 4 9 2
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COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)		EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 6 lines single-space typewritten text) (16)

On September 29, 1994, at approximately 1000 MST, Palo Verde Unit 2 was in Mode 5 (COLD SHUTDOWN) at approximately 15 psia and 95 degrees F, when the Shift Technical Advisor (STA) identified that the preventive maintenance (PM) task for calibrating the boronometer was over due. Technical Specification (TS) 3.1.2.7 Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) allows the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) boron concentration to be determined by either boronometer or RCS sampling. 10CFR50 Appendix B Criterion XII requires that devices used in activities affecting quality be properly calibrated. Therefore, the boronometer could not be used to satisfy the above TS requirement.

The evaluation of this condition revealed that on three separate occasions between February 17 and March 15, 1994, the boronometer was used by Operations personnel after initial sampling of the RCS to satisfy TS 3.1.2.7 Action a. In two of the cases (February 18 and March 15, 1994), only the initial RCS sample was required by TS due to the fact that the Startup (SU) Channels were returned to operable status prior to the need for additional RCS samples. In the third case (February 17, 1994), the boronometer was used by Operations personnel to satisfy TS 3.1.2.7 monitoring frequency requirements of the Core Operating Limits Report (COLR). Therefore, an uncalibrated piece of equipment was used by Operations personnel to meet a TS Action a SR. This was in violation of the frequency needed for compliance with TS 3.1.2.7.

There have been no previously similar events reported pursuant to 10CFR 50.73.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER	LER NUMBER			PAGE		
Palo Verde Unit 2		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
		9 4	- 0 0 8	- 0 0	0 2	OF	0 6

TEXT

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

This LER 529/94-010 is being written to report an event that resulted in a condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications (TS) as specified in 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

Specifically, on September 29, 1994, at approximately 1000 MST, Palo Verde Unit 2 was in Mode 5 (COLD SHUTDOWN) at approximately 15 psia and 95 degrees F, when the Shift Technical Advisor (STA) identified that the preventive maintenance (PM) task for calibrating the boronometer was over due. Technical Specification (TS) 3.1.2.7 Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) Action a allows the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) boron concentration to be determined by either boronometer or RCS sampling. 10CFR50 Appendix B Criterion XII requires that devices used in activities affecting quality be properly calibrated. Therefore, the boronometer could not be used to satisfy the above TS requirement.

2. EVENT DESCRIPTION

PVNGS's procedural requirement has the boronometer calibrated once every 18 months. The last time this calibration was completed was on September 26, 1991. The next scheduled performance of the task was due on March 26, 1993, with a maximum allowable extension (25 percent) due on August 23, 1993. On February 19, 1993, the calibration was stopped due to the fact that the PS-1 power supply did not meet its calibration specification in the PM. At this point work was stopped and the Shift Supervisor (SS) and work group supervisor were notified of the condition. Also, a Corrective Maintenance work order was generated. The boronometer was left on line and it continued to track the boron sampling so that it would appear that it was operating normally.

A power supply was not available through the warehouse, therefore, one had to be ordered. There was no further work performed on the boronometer until April 20, 1994, when a power supply became available.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER	LER NUMBER			PAGE		
Palo Verde Unit 2		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
		9 4	- 0 0 8	- 0 0	0 3	OF	0 6

TEXT The boronometer was worked on for one day when work was stopped due to the volume of water required to flush the instrument. Unit 2 already had a large volume of contaminated water to process and the completion of this job would have added to the existing burden.

On July 26, 1994, calibration of the boronometer was resumed and on July 27, 1994, an additional power supply, PS-3, was identified as being required to complete the calibration. This power supply was unavailable, therefore work was stopped again. On August 23, 1993, the calibration period exceeded the maximum allowable extension of 125 percent.

On October 24, 1994, a new PS-3 power supply was obtained and work began on the Unit 2 boronometer and was completed on November 12, 1994.

Therefore, the required calibration frequency was missed and the instrument was left on line and it continued to track the boron sampling so its appearance was that it was operating normally between February 18, 1993 and November 12, 1994

On December 23, 1994, the evaluation determined that the boronometer was used on 3 occasions to meet TS 3.1.2.7 Action a (February 17, 18 and March 15, 1994). On January 12, 1995, it was determined that this event was reportable.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE SAFETY CONSEQUENCES AND IMPLICATION OF THIS EVENT:

In all three cases an initial RCS boron sample and boronometer reading were taken. When compared, these two data points indicated to Operations personnel that the boronometer was tracking the RCS boron concentration. Therefore, Operations made the decision to use the boronometer in lieu of taking further RCS samples.

The use of the boronometer on February 18 and March 15, 1994, were determined to be of no significance.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER	LER NUMBER			PAGE		
Palo Verde Unit 2		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
		9 4 -	0 0 8 -	0 0	0 4	OF	0 6

TEXT The boron concentration monitoring frequency specified by TS was met by the initial RCS sample, because the length of time that the startup channels were out of service was within the sampling frequency required.

The use of the boronometer on February 17, 1994, was determined not to be within compliance with TS 3.1.2.7 Action a. Startup channel number 2 was out of service for approximately 4 hours and 7 minutes. Per TS 3.1.2.7 and the Core Operating Limits Report (COLR), the required sampling frequency is every two hours. Therefore, two boron samples were required. As stated previously, Operations personnel decided to use the boronometer due to their belief that the instrument was operating properly. Therefore, an uncalibrated piece of equipment was used by Operations personnel to meet a TS requirement.

The initial RCS boron sample was taken at 2255 MST on February 17, 1994. The results from this showed the boron concentration to be at 2597 ppm. Chemistry (utility, non-licensed) took its shiftly RCS sample at 0115 MST on February 18, 1994, and determined the boron concentration to be 2591 ppm. This sample missed the sampling frequency of TS 3.1.2.7 by 20 minutes. Therefore, TS 3.1.2.7 Action a was not met. However, this sample shows that there was not boron dilution event during this time frame.

This event did not result in any challenges to the fission product barriers or result in any releases of radioactive materials. Therefore, there were no adverse safety consequences or implications as a result of this event.

This event did not adversely affect the safe operation of the plant or the health and safety of the public.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER	LER NUMBER			PAGE		
Palo Verde Unit 2		YEAR		SEQUENTIAL NUMBER		REVISION NUMBER	
	0 5 0 0 0 5 2 9	9 4	-	0 0 8	-	0 0	0 5 OF 0 6

TEXT 4. CAUSE OF THE EVENT

An evaluation was performed in accordance with the APS Incident Investigation Program. The evaluation concluded that the apparent cause of the boronometer past calibration was a lack of concern for the instrument being calibrated correctly (SALP Cause Code A Personnel error). Contaminated water processing, concerns with the mid-cycle outage, and lack of emphasis during this time frame overrode this maintenance activity.

Prior to September 1, 1994, the responsibility for resolution of equipment reliability problems was fragmented into several organizations. Lines of communications did not always provide the clearest emphasis relative to station or Unit priorities. The reengineered Maintenance organization has provided the focus and emphasis necessary to prevent a similar occurrence.

5. STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS, OR COMPONENTS INFORMATION:

No other structures, systems, or components were inoperable at the start of the event which contributed to this event. There were no component or system failures involved, therefore, no safety systems were rendered inoperable. No components with multiple functions were involved. There were no safety system responses and none were required.

6. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE:

On September 29, 1994, procedure 30DP-9MP09, *Preventive Maintenance Processes and Activities*, had been revised to address this type of condition. Step 3.2.4 states the following:

"I&C Section/Team Leaders shall refer out-of-tolerance results found during Operations Surveillance Test "NO WAIVE" PMs on installed plant equipment to the duty STA or other appropriate engineering personnel.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER	LER NUMBER			PAGE		
Palo Verde Unit 2		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
	0 5 0 0 0 5 2 9	9 4	-	0 0 8	-	0 0	0 6 OF 0 6

TEXT The STA/engineer shall perform a documented evaluation of the significance of the problem or deficiency and ensure that a CRDR is generated, if required. They shall also provide essential Failure Data Trending information, if required."

The evaluation of the event has not been completed to date. However, any additional corrective action items identified will be tracked under the APS Commitment Action Tracking System.

If information is developed which would affect the readers understanding or perception of this event, a supplement will be submitted.

7. PREVIOUS SIMILAR EVENTS:

There have been no similar events to this type of failure reported pursuant to 10CFR50.73.

