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SUBJECT: Special rept:on 881203,spent fuel pit exhaust high range
 noble gas monitor inoperable for greater than 7 days.

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

Gentlemen:

Re: Turkey Point Unit 3
Docket No. 50-250
Special Report- Spent Fuel Pit Exhaust High Range Noble
Gas Monitor Inoperable for Greater Than Seven Days

In accordance with Technical Specification 6.9.3, the attached Special Report is provided for information.

Should there be any questions on this information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

C. O. Woody
Acting Senior Vice President - Nuclear

COW/JRH/cm

Attachment

cc: Stewart D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator, Region II, USNRC
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, Turkey Point Plant

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SPECIAL REPORT

UNIT 3 SPENT FUEL PIT EXHAUST HIGH RANGE NOBLE GAS MONITOR

Purpose

Technical Specification 3.5, Table 3.5-5, item 13.b requires that if the Unit 3 Spent Fuel Pit (SFP) exhaust high range noble gas effluent monitor (SPING-4, Channel 9) is inoperable for greater than 7 days, FPL shall prepare and submit a special report to the Commission pursuant to Technical Specification 6.9.3 within 30 days following the event, outlining the action taken, the cause of the inoperability, and the plans and schedule for restoring the system to operable status.

Event and Action Taken

December 3, 1988: The SPING-4 monitor was declared inoperable to perform preventive maintenance and the eighteen (18) month calibration required by the Technical Specifications, and the Chemistry Department initiated the preplanned alternate method of monitoring, as required by the Technical Specifications.

December 5, 1988: The SFP exhaust was isolated. This had two effects:

1. It isolated the effluent release path from the SFP.
2. The SPING-4 monitor sample point is downstream of the isolation damper, and the alternate monitoring method utilizes the same sample point; therefore, with this damper shut, it is impossible to obtain a meaningful sample from the SFP exhaust system.

February 17, 1989: The inleakage test was completed.

March 18, 1989: Calibration of the SPING-4 monitor was completed and it was returned to operable status. However, due to unrelated equipment problems, the effluent release path remained isolated.

Cause of the Inoperability

The Unit 3 SFP SPING-4 radiation monitor was removed from service in order to perform preventive maintenance and the 18 month channel calibration required by Technical Specifications. The monitor was inoperable for greater than 7 days due to the extensive nature of the calibration performed, repairs to the sample system piping, and troubleshooting efforts required to calibrate the various channels included in the monitor.

This special report was not submitted within 30 days as required by the Technical Specifications due to a misinterpretation of the Technical Specifications. The SFP exhaust had been isolated, resulting in no effluent to the monitor. Therefore, it was interpreted that the grab samples identified in Technical Specifications (3.9, Table 3.9-4, Item 2.a, Action Item 4) were not required, and that the reporting requirement of Technical Specification 3.5, Table 3.5-5, Item 13.b did not apply.

In order to prevent recurrence of this situation, a letter clarifying the reporting requirements for all of the high range noble gas effluent monitors was issued.

Schedule for Return of Equipment

The Unit 3 SFP SPING-4 monitor was returned to operable status on March 18, 1989, following successful completion of the calibration.