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GENERAL MANAGER
CALVERT CLIFFS

February 27, 1992

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
Unit No. 1; Docket No. 50-317
Wide Range Noble Gas Effluent Radiation Monitor - Special Report

Gentlemen:

The attached Special Report is submitted in accordance with Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 Technical Specification 3.3.3.1.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Very truly yours,

KED/REF/bjd

Attachment

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ATTACHMENT (I)

WIDE RANGE NOBLE GAS EFFLUENT RADIATION MONITOR - SPECIAL REPORT

We submit this Special Report concerning an inoperable Wide Range Noble Gas Effluent Radiation Monitor on the Main Vent Stack as required by Technical Specification 3.3.3.1, Table 3.3-6, Item 2.b.i.

BACKGROUND

The Unit 1 Wide Range Noble Gas Radiation Monitor (WRNGM), 1-RIC-5415, was removed from service on January 28, 1992 at 0350 because of noise spikes on the Low Range Channel. Grab samples and readings on Main Vent Effluent Radiation Monitor 1-RIC-5415 confirmed that no unplanned release was made.

After the initial channel-noise problem was discovered, other symptoms were found. These included: intermittent pump failures of the mid/high pump and midrange detector failures. Troubleshooting revealed a degraded pre-amp power supply, a broken pre-amp connector wire, and an erratic input/output board. The channel noise was corrected by replacement of the pre-amp power supply, and pre-amp board. The detector failures were corrected by pre-amp board replacement. Intermittent pump failures will be prevented by prefilter replacement; dirty filters can cause low sample flow rates. The multiple failures complicated and lengthened troubleshooting efforts. The WRNGM was returned to service on February 4, 1992 at 1715.

EFFECT ON OPERATION

Unit 1 Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 ACTION Statement (30) was entered when the WRNGM was removed from service. In accordance with this ACTION Statement and our radioactive gas release procedure (CP-213), the Main Vent Radiation Monitor was used as the alternate preplanned Main Vent Stack monitor for discharge flow-stream effluents. The WRNGM inoperability did not affect Unit 1 operation.

PLANS AND SCHEDULES

The WRNGM was returned to service on February 4, 1992 -- a total of 8 days after it was removed from service.