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January 23, 1986
ANPP-34791-EEVB/KLM/98.07

Mr. John B. Martin, Regional Administrator
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5368

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-528 (License NPF-41)
Special Report - Radiation Monitoring Unit
Not Restored to OPERABLE Status Within 72 Hours
File: 86-020-404

Dear Mr. Martin:

Attached please find a Special Report (1-SR-85-035) prepared and submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.1 and 6.9.2. This report discusses a radiation monitoring unit not restored to OPERABLE status within 72 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Project Director

EEVB/KLM/rw
Attachments

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PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNIT 1

Special Report No. 1-SR-85-035

RADIATION MONITORING UNIT NOT RESTORED TO OPERABLE STATUS WITHIN 72 HOURS

Docket No. STN 50-528

License No. NPF-41

This Special Report, of a Radiation Monitoring Unit not restored within 72 hours, is provided pursuant to Palo Verde Unit 1 Technical Specification Table 3.3-6 ACTION 27-3.

At 1430 on December 27, 1985, the 72 hour ACTION STATEMENT for operability of the Containment High Range Radiation Monitor (RU-149) was exceeded. The monitor was declared inoperable on December 24, 1985, due to spurious high and alert radiation alarms coincident with spurious detector failure alarms. A work authorizing document was issued to troubleshoot the cause of the alarms and to rework the radiation monitor as applicable.

Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure #14A, which allows the use of external detectors (RU-158 B&C or RU-37 & 38) when the containment high range monitors are inoperable, is a compensatory measure in this event.

The root cause of this event is undetermined to date. The observed detector failures have not lasted a sufficient duration to determine the actual cause of the failure.

The corrective action planned is to restore this monitor to OPERABLE by February 1, 1986. A follow-up report is projected to be submitted by March 1, 1986.