

September 22, 2000

Mr. Gregg R. Overbeck
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO
ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE LICENSES (TAC NOS. MA7746, MA7747,
AND MA7748)

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendments to make administrative changes to the licenses dated December 1, 1999. The amendments remove or correct outdated administrative information and remove completed licensing conditions from the licenses.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Steven D. Bloom, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, and STN 50-530

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Palo Verde Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:

Mr. Steve Olea
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Douglas Kent Porter
Senior Counsel
Southern California Edison Company
Law Department, Generation Resources
P.O. Box 800
Rosemead, CA 91770

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 40
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Harris Tower & Pavillion
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Chairman
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Mr. Aubrey V. Godwin, Director
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency
4814 South 40 Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Ms. Angela K. Krainik, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

Mr. John C. Horne
Vice President, Power Generation
El Paso Electric Company
2702 N. Third Street, Suite 3040
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Mr. David Summers
Public Service Company of New Mexico
414 Silver SW, #1206
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Mr. Jarlath Curran
Southern California Edison Company
5000 Pacific Coast Hwy Bldg DIN
San Clemente, CA 92672

Mr. Robert Henry
Salt River Project
6504 East Thomas Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Terry Bassham, Esq.
General Counsel
El Paso Electric Company
123 W. Mills
El Paso, TX 79901

Mr. John Schumann
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Southern California Public Power Authority
P.O. Box 51111, Room 1255-C
Los Angeles, CA 90051-0100

August 18, 1999

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, AND STN 50-530
PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of amendments to make administrative changes to the Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, AND NPF-74, issued to Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee) for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would remove or correct outdated administrative information and remove completed licensing conditions from the licenses. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendments request dated December 1, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to update the Palo Verde operating licenses by removing or correcting outdated administrative information and removing completed license conditions from the licenses. This will help reduce any potential for misinterpreting the operating licensing requirements. The Palo Verde licenses were issued by the Commission to permit the operation of Palo Verde, Units 1, 2, and 3. The operating licenses include administrative information and

references that were valid at the time of issuance but are now outdated. In addition, the operating licenses include many license conditions that were required by the Commission to operate Palo Verde plants but have since been completed and are no longer required. The changes consist of 21 changes to the Unit 1 license, 15 changes to the Unit 2 license, and 7 changes to the Unit 3 license.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action is administrative in nature and unrelated to plant operations.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

The proposed action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, dated February 1982 (NUREG-0841).

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 24, 2000, the staff consulted with the Arizona State official, Mr. William Wright of the Arizona Radiation Protection Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's application dated December 1, 1999 (ML993430261), which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, (the Electronic Reading Room). <http://www.nrc.gov>.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of September 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Steven D. Bloom, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation