APS

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102-04494-AKK/SAB/GAM
October 5, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-37
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. STN 50-528/529/530
Technical Specifications Bases Revision 5 Update

Pursuant to PVNGS Technical Specification (TS) 5.5.14, "Technical Specifications Bases Control Program," Arizona Public Service Company (APS) is submitting the changes to the TS Bases incorporated into Revision 5. These changes are provided in the enclosure on Revision 5 pages with the changes identified by revision bars. Also enclosed are insertion instructions for the Revision 5 pages.

No commitments are being made to the NRC by this letter.

Should you have any questions, please contact Scott A. Bauer at (623) 393-5978.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Bauer for

AKK/SAB/GAM/kg

Enclosure

cc: E. W. Merschoff (all w/o enclosure)
M. B. Fields
J. H. Moorman

A001

PVNGS Technical Specifications Bases Revision 5

Insertion Instructions and

Revised Pages

PVNGS Technical Specifications Bases
Revision 5
Insertion Instructions

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PVNGS

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

Technical Specification Bases

Revision 5
September 28, 2000

PALO VERDE

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B 3.7.8-2	1		B 3.8.1-15	2	
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B 3.7.8-4	1		B 3.8.1-17	2	
B 3.7.9-1	0		B 3.8.1-18	2	
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B 3.7.10-2	1		B 3.8.1-22	2	
B 3.7.10-3	1		B 3.8.1-23	2	
B 3.7.10-4	1		B 3.8.1-24	4	
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B 3.8.6-4	0		B 3.9.7-3	0	
B 3.8.6-5	1				
B 3.8.6-6	1				
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B 3.8.7-1	0				
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BASES (continued)

APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSES (continued)

occurs as a result of the post trip return to power, and THERMAL POWER does not violate the Safety Limit (SL) requirement of SL 2.1.1.

In addition to the limiting MSLB transient, the SDM requirement for MODES 3, 4, and 5 must also protect against:

a. Inadvertent boron dilution;

b. Startup of an inactive reactor coolant pump (RCP); and

c. CEA ejection.

Each of these is discussed below.

In the inadvertent boron dilution analysis, the amount of reactivity by which the reactor is subcritical is determined by the reactivity difference between an initial subcritical boron concentration and the corresponding critical boron concentration. The initial subcritical boron concentration assumed in the analysis corresponds to the minimum SDM requirements. These two values (initial and critical boron concentrations), in conjunction with the configuration of the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) and the assumed dilution flow rate, directly affect the results of the analysis. For this reason the event is most limiting at the beginning of core life when critical boron concentrations are highest.

The startup of an inactive RCP will not result in a "cold water" criticality, even if the maximum difference in temperature exists between the SG and the core. Although this event was considered in establishing the requirements for SDM, it is not the limiting event with respect to the specification limits.

SHUTDOWN MARGIN is the amount by which the core is subcritical, or would be subcritical immediately following a reactor trip, considering a single malfunction resulting in the highest worth CEA failing to insert. With any full length CEAs not capable of being fully inserted, the withdrawn reactivity worth of these CEAs must be accounted for in the determination of SDM.

The SDM satisfies Criterion 2 of 10 CFR 50.36 (c)(2)(ii).

(continued)

BASES (continued)

LCO

The MSLB (Ref. 2) and the boron dilution (Ref. 3) accidents are the most limiting analyses that establish the SDM value of the LCO. For MSLB accidents, if the LCO is violated, there is a potential to exceed the DNBR limit and to exceed 10 CFR 100, "Reactor Site Criterion," limits (Ref. 4). For the boron dilution accident, if the LCO is violated, then the minimum required time assumed for operator action to terminate dilution may no longer be applicable.

SDM is a core physics design condition that can be ensured through CEA positioning (regulating and shutdown CEAs) and through the soluble boron concentration.

APPLICABILITY

In MODES 3, 4 and 5 with the Reactor Trip Breakers Open or the CEA drive system not capable of CEA withdrawal, the SDM requirements are applicable to provide sufficient negative reactivity to meet the assumptions of the safety analyses discussed above. In MODES 1 and 2, SDM is ensured by complying with LCO 3.1.6, "Shutdown Control Element Assembly (CEA) Insertion Limits," and LCO 3.1.7. In MODES 3, 4 and 5 with the Reactor Trip Breakers Closed, SDM is addressed by LCO 3.1.2, "SHUTDOWN MARGIN (SDM) - Reactor Trip Breakers Closed." In MODE 6, the shutdown reactivity requirements are given in LCO 3.9.1, "Boron Concentration."

ACTIONS

A.1

If the SDM requirements are not met, boration must be initiated promptly. A Completion Time of 15 minutes is adequate for an operator to correctly align and start the required systems and components. It is assumed that boration will be continued until the SDM requirements are met.

In the determination of the required combination of boration flow rate and boron concentration, there is no unique requirement that must be satisfied. Since it is imperative to raise the boron concentration of the RCS as soon as possible, the boron concentration should be a highly concentrated solution, such as that normally found in the

(continued)

BASES (continued)

APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSES (continued)

MSLB, a post trip return to power may occur; however, no fuel damage occurs as a result of the post trip return to power, and THERMAL POWER does not violate the Safety Limit (SL) requirement of SL 2.1.1.

In addition to the limiting MSLB transient, the SDM requirement for MODES 3, 4, and 5 must also protect against:

a. Inadvertent boron dilution;

b. An uncontrolled CEA withdrawal from a subcritical condition;

c. Startup of an inactive reactor coolant pump (RCP); and

d. CEA ejection.

Each of these is discussed below.

In the inadvertent boron dilution analysis, the amount of reactivity by which the reactor is subcritical is determined by the reactivity difference between an initial subcritical boron concentration and the corresponding critical boron concentration. The initial subcritical boron concentration assumed in the analysis corresponds to the minimum SDM requirements. These two values (initial and critical boron concentrations), in conjunction with the configuration of the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) and the assumed dilution flow rate, directly affect the results of the analysis. For this reason the event is most limiting at the beginning of core life when critical boron concentrations are highest.

The withdrawal of CEAs from subcritical conditions adds reactivity to the reactor core, causing both the core power level and heat flux to increase with corresponding increases in reactor coolant temperatures and pressure. The withdrawal of CEAs also produces a time dependent redistribution of core power.

Depending on the system initial conditions and reactivity insertion rate, the uncontrolled CEA withdrawal transient is terminated by either a high power level trip or a high pressurizer pressure trip. In all cases, power level, RCS pressure, linear heat rate, and the DNBR do not exceed allowable limits.

(continued)

BASES (continued)

APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSES (continued)

The startup of an inactive RCP will not result in a "cold water" criticality, even if the maximum difference in temperature exists between the SG and the core. Although this event was considered in establishing the requirements for SDM, it is not the limiting event with respect to the specification limits.

The function of SHUTDOWN MARGIN is to ensure that the reactor remains subcritical following a design basis accident or anticipated operational occurrence. During operation in MODES 1 and 2, with k_{eff} greater than or equal to 1.0, the transient insertion limits of Specification 3.1.3.6 ensure that sufficient SHUTDOWN MARGIN is available.

SHUTDOWN MARGIN is the amount by which the core is subcritical, or would be subcritical immediately following a reactor trip, considering a single malfunction resulting in the highest worth CEA failing to insert. With any full length CEAs not capable of being fully inserted, the withdrawn reactivity worth of the CEAs must be accounted for in the determination of SDM.

SHUTDOWN MARGIN requirements vary throughout the core life as a function of fuel depletion and reactor coolant system (RCS) cold leg temperature (T_{cold}). The most restrictive condition occurs at EOL, with T_{cold} at no-load operating temperature, and is associated with a postulated steam line break accident and the resulting uncontrolled RCS cooldown. In the analysis of this accident, the specified SHUTDOWN MARGIN is required to control the reactivity transient and ensure that the fuel performance and offsite dose criteria are satisfied.

(continued)

BASES

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

SR 3.1.5.1

Verification that individual CEA positions are within 6.6 inches (indicated reed switch positions) of all other CEAs in the group at a 12 hour Frequency allows the operator to detect a CEA that is beginning to deviate from its expected position. The specified Frequency takes into account other CEA position information that is continuously available to the operator in the control room, so that during actual CEA motion, deviations can immediately be detected.

SR 3.1.5.2

OPERABILITY of at least two CEA position indicator channels is required to determine CEA positions, and thereby ensure compliance with the CEA alignment and insertion limits. The CEA full in and full out limits provide an additional independent means for determining the CEA positions when the CEAs are at either their fully inserted or fully withdrawn positions.

SR 3.1.5.3

Verifying each full length CEA is trippable would require that each CEA be tripped. In MODES 1 and 2 tripping each full length CEA would result in radial or axial power tilts, or oscillations. Therefore individual full length CEAs are exercised every 92 days to provide increased confidence that all full length CEAs continue to be trippable, even if they are not regularly tripped. A movement of 5 inches is adequate to demonstrate motion without exceeding the alignment limit when only one full length CEA is being moved. The 92 day Frequency takes into consideration other information available to the operator in the control room and other surveillances being performed more frequently, which add to the determination of OPERABILITY of the CEAs (Ref. 3). Between required performances of SR 3.1.5.3, if a CEA(s) is discovered to be immovable but remains trippable and aligned, the CEA is considered to be OPERABLE. At anytime, if a CEA(s) is immovable, a determination of the trippability (OPERABILITY) of that CEA(s) must be made, and appropriate action taken.

(continued)

BASES

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS (continued)

SR 3.1.5.4

Performance of a CHANNEL FUNCTIONAL TEST of each reed switch position transmitter channel ensures the channel is OPERABLE and capable of indicating CEA position. Since this test must be performed when the reactor is shut down, an 18 month Frequency to be coincident with refueling outage was selected. Operating experience has shown that these components usually pass this Surveillance when performed at a Frequency of once every 18 months. Furthermore, the Frequency takes into account other factors, which determine the OPERABILITY of the CEA Reed Switch Indication System. These factors include:

a. Other, more frequently performed surveillances that help to verify OPERABILITY;

b. On-line diagnostics performed automatically by the CPCs, CEACs, and the Plant Computer which include CEA position comparisons and sensor validation; and

c. The CHANNEL CALIBRATIONs for the CPCs (SR 3.3.1.9) and CEACs (SR 3.3.3.4) input channels that are performed at 18 month intervals and is an overlapping test.

SR 3.1.5.5

Verification of full length CEA drop times determines that the maximum CEA drop time permitted is consistent with the assumed drop time used in the safety analysis (Ref. 3). Measuring drop times prior to reactor criticality, after reactor vessel head removal, ensures the reactor internals and CEDM will not interfere with CEA motion or drop time, and that no degradation in these systems has occurred that would adversely affect CEA motion or drop time. Individual CEAs whose drop times are greater than safety analysis assumptions are not OPERABLE. This SR is performed prior to criticality due to the plant conditions needed to perform the SR and the potential for an unplanned plant transient if the Surveillance were performed with the reactor at power.

The 4 second CEA drop time is the maximum time it takes for a fully withdrawn individual full length CEA to reach its 90% insertion position when electrical power is interrupted to the CEA drive mechanism with RCS T_{cold} greater than or equal to 550°F and all reactor coolant pumps operating.

(continued)

BASES (continued)

ACTIONS

A channel is inoperable when it does not satisfy the OPERABILITY criteria for the channel's function. These criteria are outlined in the LCO section of the Bases.

A.1

With one required channel inoperable, Required Action A.1 requires the RCS boron concentration to be determined immediately and at the applicable monitoring Frequency specified in the COLR. The RCS boron concentration may be determined by the boronometer reading or by RCS sampling. The RCS sample should be from the hot leg if one or more Reactor Coolant Pumps (RCPs) are running or from the discharge of the operating pump providing shutdown cooling flow with no RCPs running. The monitoring Frequency specified in the COLR ensures that a decrease in the boron concentration during a boron dilution event will be detected. The boron concentration measurement and the OPERABLE BDAS channel provide alternate methods of detection of boron dilution with sufficient time for termination of the event before the reactor achieves criticality.

(continued)

BASES (continued)

ACTIONS (continued)

B.1

With two required channels inoperable Required Action B.1 requires the RCS boron concentration to be determined by redundant methods immediately and at the monitoring Frequency specified in the COLR. The redundant methods may use the boronometer and RCS sampling or independent collection and analysis of two RCS samples. The RCS sample should be from the hot leg if one or more Reactor Coolant Pumps (RCPs) are running or from the discharge of the operating pump providing shutdown cooling flow with no RCPs running. The simultaneous use of the boronometer and RCS sampling or independent collection and analysis of two RCS samples to monitor the RCS boron concentration provides alternate indications of inadvertent boron dilution. This will allow detection with sufficient time for termination of boron dilution before the reactor achieves criticality.

C.1

Condition C is entered when the Required Actions and associated Completion Times of Condition A or B are not met. If the Required Actions associated with these Conditions cannot be completed within the required Completion Time, the neutron flux level monitoring function cannot be reliably performed. The absence of reliable neutron flux level monitoring makes it difficult to ensure SDM is maintained. Required Action C.1 therefore requires that all positive reactivity additions that are under operation control, such as boron dilution or Reactor Coolant System temperature changes, be halted immediately preserving SDM.

(continued)

BASES

LCO (continued)

Systems Branch 5-1 (Ref. 4).

OPERABILITY of the CST is determined by maintaining the tank level at or above the minimum required level.

APPLICABILITY

In MODES 1, 2, and 3, and in MODE 4, when steam generator is being relied upon for heat removal, the CST is required to be OPERABLE.

In MODES 5 and 6, the CST is not required because the AFW System is not required.

ACTIONS

A.1 and A.2

If the CST level is not within the limit, the OPERABILITY of the backup water supply (RMWT) must be verified within 4 hours.

OPERABILITY of the RMWT must include initial alignment and verification of the OPERABILITY of flow paths from the RMWT to the AFW pumps, and availability of 26 ft. (300,000 gal.) of water in the RMWT. The CST level must be returned to OPERABLE status within 7 days, as the RMWT may be performing this function in addition to its normal functions. The 4 hour Completion Time is reasonable, based on operating experience, to verify the OPERABILITY of the RMWT. The 7 day Completion Time is reasonable, based on an OPERABLE RMWT being available, and the low probability of an event requiring the use of the water from the CST occurring during this period.

(continued)

BASES

ACTIONS (continued)

B.1 and B.2

If the CST cannot be restored to OPERABLE status within the associated Completion Time, the unit must be placed in a MODE in which the LCO does not apply. To achieve this status, the unit must be placed in at least MODE 3 within 6 hours, and in MODE 4, without reliance on steam generator for heat removal, within 24 hours. The allowed Completion Times are reasonable, based on operating experience, to reach the required unit conditions from full power conditions in an orderly manner and without challenging unit systems.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

SR 3.7.6.1

This SR verifies that the CST contains the required volume of cooling water. (This level ≥ 29.5 ft (300,000 gallons)). The 12 hour Frequency is based on operating experience, and the need for operator awareness of unit evolutions that may affect the CST inventory between checks. The 12 hour Frequency is considered adequate in view of other indications in the control room, including alarms, to alert the operator to abnormal CST level deviations.

REFERENCES

1. UFSAR, Section 9.2.6.
2. UFSAR, Chapter 6.
3. UFSAR, Chapter 15.
4. NRC Standard Review Plan Branch Technical Position (BTP) RSB5-1.

BASES

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

SR 3.8.1.12 (continued)

capable of being operated at full flow, or SDC systems performing a decay heat removal function are not desired to be realigned to the ECCS mode of operation. In lieu of actual demonstration of connection and loading of loads, testing that adequately shows the capability of the offsite circuit system to perform these functions is acceptable. This testing may include any series of sequential, overlapping, or total steps so that the entire connection and loading sequence is verified to the extent possible ensuring power is available to the component.

The Frequency of 18 months takes into consideration unit conditions required to perform the Surveillance and is intended to be consistent with the expected fuel cycle lengths. Operating experience has shown that these components usually pass the SR when performed at the 18 month Frequency. Therefore, the Frequency was concluded to be acceptable from a reliability standpoint.

This SR is modified by two Notes. The reason for Note 1 is to minimize wear and tear on the DGs during testing. The reason for Note 2 is that performing this SR would remove a required offsite circuit from service, perturb the EDS, and challenge safety systems.

SR 3.8.1.13

This Surveillance demonstrates that DG and its associated 4.16 KV output breaker noncritical protective functions (e.g., high jacket water temperature) are bypassed on a loss of voltage signal concurrent with an ESF actuation test signal, and critical protective functions (engine overspeed, generator differential current, engine low lube oil pressure, and manual emergency stop trip), trip the DG to avert substantial damage to the DG unit. The noncritical trips are bypassed during DBAs and provide an alarm on an abnormal engine condition. This alarm provides the operator with sufficient time to react appropriately. The DG availability to mitigate the DBA is more critical than protecting the engine against minor problems that are not immediately detrimental to emergency operation of the DG.

(continued)

BASES

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

SR 3.8.1.13 (continued)

The 18 month Frequency is based on engineering judgment, taking into consideration unit conditions required to perform the Surveillance, and is intended to be consistent with expected fuel cycle lengths. Operating experience has shown that these components usually pass the SR when performed at the 18 month Frequency. Therefore, the Frequency was concluded to be acceptable from a reliability standpoint.

The SR is modified by a Note. The reason for the Note is that performing the Surveillance would remove a required DG from service.

SR 3.8.1.14

Regulatory Guide 1.9 (Ref. 3), paragraph 2.2.9, requires demonstration once per 18 months that the DGs can start and run continuously at full load capability for an interval of not less than 24 hours, ≥ 2 hours of which is at a load equivalent to 105 to 110% of the continuous rating of the DG (5775 - 6050 kW) and ≥ 22 hours at a load equivalent to 90 to 100% of the continuous duty rating of the DG (4950 - 5500 kW). The DG starts for this Surveillance can be performed either from normal keep-warm or hot conditions. The provisions for prelubricating and warmup, discussed in SR 3.8.1.2, and for gradual loading, discussed in SR 3.8.1.3, are applicable to this SR (Note 3 and Note 4).

In order to ensure that the DG is tested under load conditions that are as close to design conditions as possible, testing is performed using design basis kW loading and maximum kVAR loading permitted during testing. These loads represent the inductive loading that the DG would experience to the extent practicable and is consistent with the intent of Regulatory Guide 1.9 (Ref. 3). Administrative limits have been placed upon the Class 1E 4160 V buses due to high voltage concerns. As a result, power factors deviating much from unity are currently not possible when the DG runs parallel to the grid. To the extent practicable, VARs will be provided by the DG during this SR. The load band is provided to avoid routine overloading of the DG. Routine overloading may result in more frequent teardown inspections in accordance with vendor recommendations in order to maintain DG OPERABILITY.

(continued)