

January 26, 2001

Mr. Gregg R. Overbeck  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear  
Arizona Public Service Company  
P. O. Box 52034  
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 RE:  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY NATIONAL  
VOLUNTARY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (TAC NOS.  
MA9159, MB0577, AND MB0578)

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

In your letter of October 3, 1997 (102-04022), you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to determine if the program contains sufficient controls to allow NRC licensees, and vendors which provide 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B audited calibration services to licensees, to not have to audit NVLAP accredited laboratories to meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B. You also requested that this review be performed in accordance with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995.

We have reviewed the NVLAP accreditation process and, based on the issues that we provided you as an enclosure to our letter of October 20, 2000, we have concluded that the NVLAP accreditation process does not meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B and licensees may not use NVLAP accredited laboratories without performing an audit to meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B. Because the Act of 1995 only applies to when a federal agency proposes a generic standard, and it is our understanding of your letter that you are not requesting the Commission to adopt a generic standard, the Act of 1995 does not apply. Any request for Commission approval of the use of NVLAP accredited laboratories as part of an acceptable quality assurance program should address the issues listed in the enclosure to our letter of October 20, 2000.

Gregg R. Overbeck

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January 26, 2001

This letter closes out our review of your request of October 3, 1997. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at 301-415-1307, or by email at [jnd@nrc.gov](mailto:jnd@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jack N. Donohew, Senior 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

cc: See next page

Gregg R. Overbeck

- 2 -

January 26, 2001

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Sincerely,

*/RA/*

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cc: 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