



10 CFR 50.59

Palo Verde Nuclear
Generating Station

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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
Implementation of Revised 10 CFR 50.59**

The effective date for the revised 10 CFR 50.59 was established in a December 13, 2000, *Federal Register* notice (65 FR 77773), as March 13, 2001. As discussed in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-03, dated January 23, 2001, the NRC has stated that to permit an orderly transition to the revised rule, licensees may implement the rule later than this date. Although an exemption is not necessary, the RIS suggested that a licensee may want to communicate its implementation plan to the NRC.

PVNGS has been training plant personnel regarding the revised rule since December 2000. This training will continue through March 23, 2001 to accommodate the operations staff. PVNGS is also in the process of revising plant procedures and processes to successfully implement the requirements of the revised rule. A NRC biennial inspection regarding 10 CFR 50.59 will be performed during the week of March 05, 2001. In addition, PVNGS Unit 1 will enter a refueling outage on March 31, 2001. In order to accommodate these activities and to provide additional, targeted training to individuals that will be performing 10 CFR 50.59 related activities, PVNGS will implement the revised rule by June 30, 2001. Until that time, PVNGS will continue to apply the requirements of the current rule using our existing 10 CFR 50.59 review processes.

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,

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Implementation of Revised 10 CFR 50.59
Page 2

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cc: E. W. Merschoff [Region IV Administrator]
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