

March 26, 1997

Mr. James M. Levine
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
Post Office Box 53999
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS FOR THE PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M97668), UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M97669), AND UNIT
NO. 3 (TAC NO. M97670)

Dear Mr. Levine:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 112 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-41, Amendment No. 104 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-51, and Amendment No. 84 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-74 for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The amendments are in response to your application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997.

These amendments authorize you, through a license condition in each license, to incorporate changes to the description of the facilities in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) as described in your submittal dated December 27, 1996.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by William Bateman for
James W. Clifford, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 112 to NPF-41
- 2. Amendment No. 104 to NPF-51
- 3. Amendment No. 84 to NPF-74
- 4. Safety Evaluation

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Mr. James M. Levine

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March 26, 1997

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. STN 50-528

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 112
License No. NPF-41

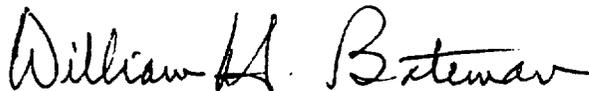
1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS or the licensee) on behalf of itself and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, El Paso Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended to authorize changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report and paragraph 2.C.(14) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-41 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(14) Additional Conditions

The Additional Conditions contained in Appendix D, as revised through Amendment No. 112, are hereby incorporated into this license. Arizona Public Service Company shall operate the facility in accordance with the Additional Conditions.

3. This license amendment is effective immediately, and shall be implemented within 60 days of the date of issuance. Implementation of the amendment is the incorporation into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report of the changes to the description of the facility as described in the licensee's application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation attached to this amendment.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



William H. Bateman, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Appendix D -
Additional Conditions

Date of Issuance: March 26, 1997

APPENDIX D

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-41

Arizona Public Service Company shall comply with the following conditions on the schedules noted below:

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Additional Condition</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
111	This amendment authorizes the licensee to incorporate in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) certain changes to the description of the facility. Implementation of this amendment is the incorporation of these changes as described in the licensee's application dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated March 7, 1996, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation dated March 17, 1997.	60 days from the date of issuance.
112	This amendment authorizes the licensee to incorporate in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) certain changes to the description of the facility. Implementation of this amendment is the incorporation of these changes as described in the licensee's application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation dated March 26, 1997.	60 days from the date of issuance.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. STN 50-529

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 104
License No. NPF-51

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS or the licensee) on behalf of itself and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, El Paso Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended to authorize changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report and paragraph 2.C.(9) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-51 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(9) Additional Conditions

The Additional Conditions contained in Appendix D, as revised through Amendment No. 104, are hereby incorporated into this license. Arizona Public Service Company shall operate the facility in accordance with the Additional Conditions.

3. This license amendment is effective immediately, and shall be implemented within 60 days of the date of issuance. Implementation of the amendment is the incorporation into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report of the changes to the description of the facility as described in the licensee's application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation attached to this amendment.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



William H. Bateman, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Appendix D -
Additional Conditions

Date of Issuance: March 26, 1997

APPENDIX D

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-51

Arizona Public Service Company shall comply with the following conditions on the schedules noted below:

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Additional Condition</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
103	This amendment authorizes the licensee to incorporate in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) certain changes to the description of the facility. Implementation of this amendment is the incorporation of these changes as described in the licensee's application dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated March 7, 1996, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation dated March 17, 1997.	60 days from the date of issuance.
104	This amendment authorizes the licensee to incorporate in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) certain changes to the description of the facility. Implementation of this amendment is the incorporation of these changes as described in the licensee's application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation dated March 26, 1997.	60 days from the date of issuance.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. STN 50-530

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 3

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 84
License No. NPF-74

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS or the licensee) on behalf of itself and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, El Paso Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended to authorize changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report and paragraph 2.C.(5) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-74 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(5) Additional Conditions

The Additional Conditions contained in Appendix D, as revised through Amendment No. 84, are hereby incorporated into this license. Arizona Public Service Company shall operate the facility in accordance with the Additional Conditions.

3. This license amendment is effective immediately, and shall be implemented within 60 days of the date of issuance. Implementation of the amendment is the incorporation into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report of the changes to the description of the facility as described in the licensee's application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation attached to this amendment.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



William H. Bateman, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Appendix D -
Additional Conditions

Date of Issuance: March 26, 1997

APPENDIX D

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-74

Arizona Public Service Company shall comply with the following conditions on the schedules noted below:

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Additional Condition</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
83	This amendment authorizes the licensee to incorporate in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) certain changes to the description of the facility. Implementation of this amendment is the incorporation of these changes as described in the licensee's application dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated March 7, 1996, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation dated March 17, 1997.	60 days from the date of issuance.
84	This amendment authorizes the licensee to incorporate in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) certain changes to the description of the facility. Implementation of this amendment is the incorporation of these changes as described in the licensee's application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation dated March 26, 1997.	60 days from the date of issuance.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 112 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-41,
AMENDMENT NO. 104 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-51,
AND AMENDMENT NO. 84 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-74
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.
PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1, 2, AND 3
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, AND STN 50-530

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated December 27, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated March 18, 1997, the Arizona Public Service Company (APS or the licensee) requested a modification to License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, respectively for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The Arizona Public Service Company submitted this request on behalf of itself, the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Southern California Edison Company, El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority. The proposed changes would modify the licenses to authorize revision of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) to incorporate certain changes to the licensing basis for the facilities. The changes describe a revised analysis to reflect the installation of a transmission line by another utility over two existing off-site power lines supplying the Palo Verde site.

2.0 EVALUATION

The Salt Water Project installed a 525-kV transmission line between their Mead and Perkins substations. This new line crosses over two of the five transmission lines that serve the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Generating Station (PVNGS).

Section 8.2.1.1 of the current PVNGS Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) states that there are no crossings of the five 525-kV transmission lines associated with PVNGS. These lines were stated to be designed and located so as to minimize to the extent practical the likelihood of their simultaneous failure under operating and postulated accident conditions. With the installation of the Mead-Perkins line, the potential for loss of both the existing Westwing I and Westwing II lines has been increased. In addition, analysis to meet frequency decay rate requirements is contained in UFSAR Section 8.3.1.7. Dynamic stability analysis contained in Appendix 8B shows

that the grid is stable for a loss of the single most critical transmission line, i.e., the Palo Verde-Devers line. With the installation of the Mead-Perkins line, a failure of the Mead-Perkins line could short circuit both the Westwing I and Westwing II lines simultaneously. The simultaneous loss of the Westwing I and Westwing II lines now constitutes the most critical transmission line loss.

Since the new Mead-Perkins transmission line runs over both the Westwing I and Westwing II lines, Arizona Power Company (APS) has reanalyzed grid stability assuming the simultaneous loss of both Westwing lines due to a single phase-to-ground fault caused by a dropping of the Mead-Perkins line onto the Westwing lines. The electrical protection on the Westwing lines can detect and clear a fault in 4 cycles. A falling transmission line will impact one of the phases in sufficient time for electrical protection to clear the fault before the conductor has enough time to travel the distance to the next phase. Therefore, the licensee has considered a single phase-to-ground fault as an appropriate failure based on the speed of the protection and the geometry of the crossing.

The licensee, in cooperation with the Salt River Project, reviewed the specific line-crossing configuration to determine the potential failure mechanisms and resultant failure rate. The licensee has identified only three types of incidents that have caused 525-kV lines to fall within the APS system: (1) splice failures, (2) insulator failures, and (3) airplane crashes. APS has confirmed with the Salt River Project that the Mead-Perkins line segment crossing the Westwing lines does not contain a splice. In addition, the particular line crossing was constructed using dead end towers, which have three insulator strings per conductor phase. The insulator strings are designed such that only one is required to hold up a conductor phase.

The third failure mechanism (airplane crashes) has occurred twice in the APS 525-kV system. The 525-kV system has 1,230-mile-long transmission lines. These lines have been in service between 12 and 27 years. The distance between the towers where the Mead-Perkins line crosses the Westwing lines is 781 feet. The resultant probability of the subject span falling in any given year can be calculated to be 1.1×10^{-5} events/year. During the last two years, the remaining three lines were out of service for a total of 79 hours. Therefore, the combined probability of the simultaneous loss of Westwing I and Westwing II, while one of the remaining three lines out of service, is approximately 4.5×10^{-8} per year, which is extremely low.

The licensee has performed analyses under heavy-loaded (providing MVARs during summer) and light-loaded (absorbing MVARs during autumn) conditions. The new analyses demonstrate that the simultaneous loss of both Westwing lines is the most critical loss, rather than the loss of the Palo Verde-Devers line, which is currently discussed in Appendix 8B of the UFSAR. These new analyses demonstrate that the grid remains stable, and that the Section 8.3.1.7 interface requirement of a sustained frequency decay of less than 3 Hz/sec is satisfied. The system exhibited a stable response, with positive damping achieved and with system frequency deviation held within acceptable limits.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis, and concludes that the licensee has demonstrated that the grid stability is maintained with the simultaneous loss of Westwing I and Westwing II lines in accordance with the requirements of General Design Criterion 17 of Appendix A to 10 CFR 50. The staff concludes that the UFSAR change is, therefore, acceptable.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES

The licensee originally submitted their request for amendment pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90 on December 27, 1996, to address this unreviewed safety question. The NRC staff had not issued its notice of proposed issuance of amendments to facility operating licenses, proposed no significant hazards consideration determination, and opportunity for a hearing when the staff realized that an existing NRC policy required that the NRC complete its action on existing unreviewed safety questions prior to an affected plant resuming operation from a shutdown condition. The staff identified this issue to the licensee on March 11, 1997. On March 17, 1997, the staff determined that processing the amendment under the emergency provisions of 10 CFR 50.91 would be necessary to allow resumption of operation of PVNGS Unit No. 3 from its current refueling outage on March 28, 1997. Thus, failure to act in a timely manner would prevent resumption of operation of PVNGS Unit No. 3. The licensee submitted the amendment request on December 27, 1996, having acted in a timely manner and thus did not itself create the emergency. The licensee subsequently requested, by letter dated March 18, 1997, that the staff complete its review of the unreviewed safety question and issue the associated amendment prior to close of business March 27, 1997.

4.0 FINAL NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION

The Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92 state that the Commission may make a final determination that a license amendment involves no significant hazards considerations, if operation of the facility, in accordance with the amendment would not:

- (1) Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated; or
- (2) Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or
- (3) Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

These amendments have been evaluated against the standards in 10 CFR 50.92. It does not involve a significant hazards consideration because the changes would not:

1. Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. Analysis of grid stability is performed to assure the reliability and capability of offsite power. Grid instabilities could result in a loss of offsite power. The loss of offsite power is an analyzed event in UFSAR Chapter 15. Previous grid

stability analyses documented in UFSAR Section 8B have demonstrated that the loss of the most critical transmission element will not create a grid instability and, therefore, does not result in a loss of offsite power accident.

However, Regulatory Guide 1.70, "Standard Format and Content of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants (LWR Edition)," Revision 3, Section 2.2.3.1 requires analysis of events, external to the nuclear power plant, that have a probability of occurrence on the order of 10^{-7} per year or greater and have potential consequences serious enough to affect safety of the plant to the extent that 10 CFR Part 100 guidelines could be exceeded.

The probability of the simultaneous loss of both the Westwing I and Westwing II lines due to the mechanical failure of the Mead-Perkins line while all five lines serving PVNGS are in service is 1.1×10^{-5} events per year. Analysis has been performed that shows that the grid and the PVNGS turbine generators remain stable within the design requirements of NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants," Section 8.2.III.1(f) and the Combustion Engineering Standardized Safety Analysis Report (CESSAR) Section 8.3.1.7. Since grid stability is assured (i.e., a loss of offsite power is not created by the new event), the probability of an accident previously evaluated is not affected.

The consequences of a loss of offsite power are analyzed in UFSAR Chapter 15. The simultaneous loss of the Westwing I and Westwing II lines has been demonstrated to not cause a loss of offsite power. Therefore, the proposed change does not affect the consequences of accidents previously analyzed.

2. Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated. The revised grid stability analyses, performed in accordance with NUREG-0800, Section 8.2.III.1(f) and CESSAR, Section 8.3.1.7 interface requirements, shows that the simultaneous loss of both the Westwing I and Westwing II transmission lines satisfies grid stability and interface requirement; i.e., General Design Criterion 17, "Electric Power Systems," of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 is met.

Additional analysis has been performed demonstrating that the simultaneous loss of Westwing I and Westwing II lines, while the most critical of the remaining three lines is out of service and net station output is at or above 3657 MW, will not cause grid instability, but could cause the loss of one or more PVNGS turbine generators. The loss of a PVNGS turbine is analyzed in UFSAR Chapter 15.

Therefore, the addition of a new transmission line over two of the five transmission lines serving PVNGS does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. Both the previous grid stability studies and the current studies increased PVNGS output by 7% for stability margin. The studies presently in the UFSAR used a nominal 1270 MW net power output per unit. This output was a design estimate and never actually reached. The recent power uprate of 2 percent now produces a nominal net output of 1270 MW, therefore both the current UFSAR studies and the revised studies use the same 7 percent margin. The revised grid stability analyses, performed in accordance with NUREG-0800, Section 8.2.III.1(f) and CESSAR, Section 8.3.1.7 interface requirements, demonstrates that the simultaneous loss of both the Westwing I and Westwing II transmission lines would not cause an unstable grid.

Therefore, the addition of a transmission line over two of the five transmission lines serving PVNGS does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that these amendments involve no significant hazards considerations.

5.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Arizona State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact was published in the Federal Register on March 25, 1997 (62 FR 14169).

Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission has determined that the issuance of the amendments will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributors: N. Trehan
J. Clifford

Date: March 26, 1997