

August 27, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-529

Mr. William F. Conway
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
Post Office Box 53999
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999

Dear Mr. Conway:

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SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT FOR PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION,
UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M80566)

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 40 to the Facility Operating License No. NPF-51 for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 2. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated May 29, 1991.

The amendment changes Technical Specification 3/4.7.9, which currently requires snubber functional testing every 18 months plus or minus 25 percent, when 0 snubbers are inoperable per inspection period. This amendment grants a one-time extension to the current surveillance requirement by allowing functional testing of the snubbers to be deferred until the next refueling outage, scheduled to begin October 17, 1991, but no later than December 17, 1991.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Catherine M. Thompson, Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PDR ADDCK 05000529
P PDR

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 40 to NPF-51
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

* See previous concurrence

DET: JMEB
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8/27/91

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

August 27, 1991

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Mr. William F. Conway
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Catherine M. Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

Catherine M. Thompson, Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 40 to NPF-51
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

Mr. William F. Conway
Arizona Public Service Company

Palo Verde

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

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. 40
License No. NPF-51

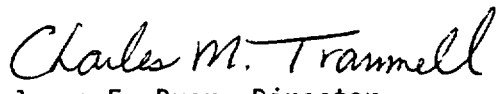
1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Arizona Public Service Company on behalf of itself and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, El Paso Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority (licensees), dated May 29, 1991, 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 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 by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-74 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 40, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated into this license. APS shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan, except where otherwise stated in specific license conditions.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of issuance and must be fully implemented no later than 45 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


for James E. Dyer, Director
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 27, 1991

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT NO. 40 FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-51

DOCKET NO. STN 50-529

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains vertical lines indicating the areas of change. The corresponding overleaf page is also provided to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE

3/4 7-23

INSERT

3/4 7-23

PLANT SYSTEMS

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

the visual inspection acceptance criteria, freedom-of-motion of mechanical snubbers shall be verified using at least one of the following: (1) manually induced snubber movement; or (2) evaluation of in-place snubber piston setting; or (3) stroking the mechanical snubber through its full range of travel.

e. Functional Tests

During the first refueling shutdown and at least once per 18 months* thereafter during shutdown, a representative sample of snubbers shall be tested using one of the following sample plans. The sample plan shall be selected prior to the test period and cannot be changed during the test period. The NRC Regional Administrator shall be notified in writing of the sample plan selected prior to the test period or the sample plan used in the prior test period shall be implemented:

- 1) At least 10% of the total of each type of snubber shall be functionally tested either in-place or in a bench test. For each snubber of a type that does not meet the functional test acceptance criteria of Specification 4.7.9f., an additional 10% of that type of snubber shall be functionally tested until no more failures are found or until all snubbers of that type have been functionally tested; or
- 2) A representative sample of each type of snubber shall be functionally tested in accordance with Figure 4.7-1. "C" is the total number of snubbers of a type found not meeting the acceptance requirements of Specification 4.7.9f. The cumulative number of snubbers of a type tested is denoted by "N". At the end of each day's testing, the new values of "N" and "C" (previous day's total plus current day's increments) shall be plotted on Figure 4.7-1. If at any time the point plotted falls in the "Reject" region all snubbers of that type shall be functionally tested. If at any time the point plotted falls in the "Accept" region, testing of snubbers of that type may be terminated. When the point plotted lies in the "Continue Testing" region, additional snubbers of that type shall be tested until the point falls in the "Accept" region or the "Reject" region, or all the snubbers of that type have been tested. Testing equipment failure during functional testing may invalidate that day's testing and allow that day's testing to resume anew at a later time, providing all snubbers tested with the failed equipment during the day of equipment failure are retested; or
- 3) An initial representative sample of 55 snubbers shall be functionally tested. For each snubber type which does not meet the functional test acceptance criteria, another sample of at least one-half the size of the initial sample shall be tested until the total number tested is equal to the initial sample size multiplied by the factor, $1 + C/2$, where "C" is the number of snubbers found which do not meet the functional test acceptance criteria. The results from this sample plan shall be plotted using an "Accept" line which follows the equation $N = 55(1 + C/2)$. Each snubber point should be plotted as soon

*Except that the functional testing due not later than September 25, 1991 may be deferred until the next refueling outage, but not beyond December 17, 1991.

PLANT SYSTEMS

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

as the snubber is tested. If the point plotted falls on or below the "Accept" line, testing of that type of snubber may be terminated. If the point plotted falls above the "Accept" line, testing must continue until the point falls in the "Accept" region or all the snubbers of that type have been tested.

The representative sample selected for the functional test sample plans shall be randomly selected from the snubbers of each type and reviewed before beginning the testing. The review shall ensure as far as practical that they are representative of the various configurations, operating environments, range of size, and capacity of snubbers of each type. Snubbers placed in the same locations as snubbers which failed the previous functional test shall be retested at the time of the next functional test but shall not be included in the sample plan. If during the functional testing, additional sampling is required due to failure of only one type of snubber, the functional testing results shall be reviewed at the time to determine if additional samples should be limited to the type of snubber which has failed the functional testing.

f. Functional Test Acceptance Criteria

The snubber functional test shall verify that:

- 1) Activation (restraining action) is achieved within the specified range in both tension and compression;
- 2) Snubber bleed, or release rate where required, is present in both tension and compression, within the specified range;
- 3) For mechanical snubbers, the force required to initiate or maintain motion of the snubber is within the specified range in both directions of travel; and
- 4) For snubbers specifically required not to displace under continuous load, the ability of the snubber to withstand load without displacement.

Testing methods may be used to measure parameters indirectly or parameters other than those specified if those results can be correlated to the specified parameters through established methods.

g. Functional Test Failure Analysis

An engineering evaluation shall be made of each failure to meet the functional test acceptance criteria to determine the cause of the failure. The results of this evaluation shall be used, if applicable, in selecting snubbers to be tested in an effort to determine the OPERABILITY of other snubbers irrespective of type which may be subject to the same failure mode.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 40 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-51
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.
PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. STN 50-529

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 29, 1991, Arizona Public Service Company (APS or the licensee) on behalf of itself and 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 (licensees), requested changes to Technical Specifications (TS) for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 2 located in Maricopa County, Arizona. APS has proposed changes to TS 3/4.7.9, which currently requires snubber functional testing every 18 months plus or minus 25 percent, when 0 snubbers are inoperable per inspection period. Under these conditions, the snubber functional testing for Unit 2 must be completed no later than September 25, 1991. As a result, Unit 2 would be required to shut down just prior to the planned refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin October 17, 1991. The proposed amendment would allow a one-time extension to the current surveillance requirement. The proposed change would add a footnote to surveillance requirement 4.7.9e which would allow functional testing for the snubbers to be deferred until the next refueling outage, but no later than December 17, 1991.

2.0 EVALUATION

The proposed change to TS 3/4.7.9 would allow snubber functional testing to be completed during the upcoming refueling outage, thus preventing an unplanned outage.

By reviewing the previous snubber tests for Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3, it was noted that every surveillance test performed on hydraulic snubbers has successfully satisfied the TS acceptance criteria surveillance requirement 4.7.9f. Therefore, there has not been a history of problems with hydraulic snubbers at PVNGS.

Currently, the snubber functional testing is due no later than September 25, 1991. The amendment requests an extension to allow testing to be performed between October 17 and December 17, 1991, coinciding with the planned refueling outage. The staff finds that this extension is minor, and early shutdown to meet the current surveillance requirements appears to be unwarranted.

As a result of these considerations, the staff concludes that the proposed TS change at PVNGS Unit 2 is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 or a change to a surveillance requirement. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (56 FR 29268). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 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 amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: C. Thompson

Date: August 27, 1991