



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

January 30, 2003

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

**SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 -
NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION 50-528; 50-529;
50-530/03-301**

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

In a telephone conversation on January 22, 2003, between Messrs. T. F. Stetka, Chief Examiner; M. Shea, Director, Nuclear Training; F. Riedel, Manager, Operations Training Manager; B. Drey, Nuclear Training Instructor; and P. Capehart, Nuclear Training Instructor; arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at your Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, during the week of July 21, 2003.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in draft Revision 9, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," which can be used as a pilot effort and is currently available on the NRC web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operator-licensing/op-licensing-files/nureg-1021-9d.pdf>. The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by March 24, 2003. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 and as specified by the Chief Examiner will be due by May 22, 2003. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled. Additionally, an onsite validation of the examination material will be performed during the week of June 30, 2003. Sufficient staff resources and the simulator should be made available for the examination validation.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402 and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures,

temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date, or no later than June 21, 2003. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date or no later than July 7, 2003.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Record (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

I appreciate your participation in the pilot effort for the draft Revision 9 of NUREG 1021 and look forward to your comments on its implementation. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Messrs. Capehart and Potter have been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination

procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Tom Stetka at 817-860-8247, or myself at 817-860-8159.

Sincerely,

//RA//

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Dockets: 50-528; 50-529; 50-530
Licenses: NPF-41; NPF-51; NPF-74

cc:

Steve Olea
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Douglas K. Porter, Senior Counsel
Southern California Edison Company
Law Department, Generation Resources
P.O. Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Chairman
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Aubrey V. Godwin, Director
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency
4814 South 40 Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

Craig K. Seaman, Director
Regulatory Affairs/Nuclear Assurance
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Mail Station 7636
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034

Hector R. Puente
Vice President, Power Generation
El Paso Electric Company
2702 N. Third Street, Suite 3040
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Terry Bassham, Esq.
General Counsel
El Paso Electric Company
123 W. Mills
El Paso, Texas 79901

John W. Schumann
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Southern California Public Power Authority
P.O. Box 51111, Room 1255-C
Los Angeles, California 90051-0100

John Taylor
Public Service Company of New Mexico
2401 Aztec NE, MS Z110
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4224

Jarlath Curran
Southern California Edison Company
5000 Pacific Coast Hwy. Bldg. DIN
San Clemente, California 92672

Robert Henry
Salt River Project
6504 East Thomas Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Brian Almon
Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
P.O. Box 13326
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-3326

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