



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

April 8, 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 - NOTIFICATION OF AN
NRC TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION 50-528/03-07;
50-529/03-07; 50-530/03-07**

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region IV staff, will conduct a triennial fire protection baseline inspection at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in June of 2003. The inspection team will be comprised of a team of reactor inspectors from the NRC Region IV office and a contractor. The inspection will be conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.05, "Fire Protection," the NRC's baseline fire protection inspection procedure.

The schedule for the inspection is as follows:

- Information gathering visit - May 27 - 29, 2003
- First week of onsite inspection - June 9 - 13, 2003
- Second week of onsite inspection - June 23 - 27, 2003

In advance of the onsite inspection, some members of the inspection team will visit the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station during the week of May 27 - 29, 2003, to obtain information and documentation needed to support the inspection, become familiar with your fire protection program and, as necessary, obtain plant-specific site-access training and badging for unescorted site access. A nonexhaustive list of the types of documents the team will be interested in reviewing, and possibly obtaining, are listed in the Enclosure. The team leader will determine at that time the documents necessary for examination in our regional office in preparation for the onsite portion of this inspection. We would appreciate it if you could send this information to our office in Arlington, Texas, so that it will arrive no later than noon on June 2, 2003.

During the week prior to the inspection, the team leader will discuss the following inspection support administrative details: office space, size and location; specific documents requested to be made available to the team in their office spaces; arrangements for site access (including radiation protection training, security, safety, and fitness-for-duty requirements); and the availability of knowledgeable plant engineering and licensing organization personnel to serve as points of contact during the inspection.

We request that during the onsite inspection week, you ensure that copies of analyses, evaluations, or documentation regarding the implementation and maintenance of the fire protection program, including post-fire safe shutdown capability, be readily accessible to the team for their review. Of specific interest are those documents that establish that your fire protection program satisfies NRC regulatory requirements and conforms to applicable NRC and industry fire protection guidance. Also, appropriate personnel knowledgeable of: (1) those plant systems required to achieve and maintain safe shutdown conditions from inside and outside the control room, (2) the electrical aspects of the post-fire safe shutdown analyses, (3) reactor plant fire protection systems, and (4) the fire protection program and its implementation should be available at the site during the inspection.

Your cooperation and support during this inspection will be appreciated. If you have questions concerning this inspection or the inspection team's information or logistical needs, please contact Ray Mullikin at 817-860-8102.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles S. Marschall, Chief
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Dockets: 50-528; 50-529; 50-530
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Enclosure: Reactor Fire Protection Program
Supporting Documentation

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-4-

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ENCLOSURE

Reactor Fire Protection Program Supporting Documentation

1. The current version of the fire protection program and fire hazards analysis.
2. A listing of the fire protection program implementing procedures (e.g., administrative controls, maintenance, surveillance testing, fire brigade).
3. Pre-fire plans.
4. Post-fire safe shutdown analysis.
5. Piping and instrumentation (flow) diagrams highlighting the system and components used to achieve and maintain hot standby and cold shutdown for fires outside the control room and those components used for those areas requiring alternative shutdown capability.
6. Plant layout and equipment drawings that identify the physical plant locations of major hot standby and cold shutdown equipment.
7. Plant layout drawings that identify plant fire area and/or fire zone delineation, areas protected by automatic fire suppression and detection, and the locations of fire protection equipment.
8. Plant layout drawings that identify the general location of the post-fire emergency lighting units.
9. A listing of plant operating procedures that would be used and which describe shutdown from inside the control room with a postulated fire occurring in any plant area outside the control room, and procedures that would be used to implement alternative shutdown capability in the event of a fire in either the control or cable spreading room.
10. A listing of fire protection and post-fire safe shutdown related design change packages (including their associated 10 CFR 50.59 evaluations) performed in the last three years.
11. A listing of Generic Letter 86-10 evaluations performed in the last three years.
12. The plant's individual plant examination external event report, results of any post-individual plant examination external event reviews, and listings of actions taken or plant modifications conducted in response to individual plant examination external event information.
13. Organization charts of site personnel down to the level of fire protection staff personnel.
14. A listing of applicable codes and standards related to the design of plant fire protection features and evaluations of any code deviations.
15. Listing of open and closed fire protection condition reports initiated within the last three years.
16. Copies of the licensing basis documents for fire protection (SERs, exemptions, deviations, etc.).