



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

May 11, 2005

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

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - NOTIFICATION OF
NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION (EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000528; 529; 530/2005301)

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

In a telephone conversation on May 4, 2005 between Messrs. Warren Potter, Operations Training Supervisor, and Gary Johnston, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station during the week of August 1, 2005.

As agreed during the telephone conversation your staff will prepare the written and operating tests based on the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's 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 written and operating examination outlines by May 18, 2005. The written and operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 to ES-201 will be due by June 17, 2005. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (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.

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 to 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. 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.

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 OMB, under approval number 3150-0018, which expires on June 30, 2006. 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 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to BJ51@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agency wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Electronic Reading Room page of the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Potter has 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 Gary Johnston at 817-276-6256, or myself at 817-860-8159.

Sincerely,

/RA/ MXH for

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch

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Arizona Public Service Company

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cc

Steve Olea

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 W. Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Douglas K. Porter, Senior Counsel

Southern California Edison Company

Law Department, Generation Resources

P.O. Box 800

Rosemead, CA 91770

Chairman

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Aubrey V. Godwin, Director

Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency

4814 South 40 Street

Phoenix, AZ 85040

Craig K. Seaman, Director

Regulatory Affairs

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

Mail Station 7636

P.O. Box 52034

Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

Hector R. Puente

Vice President, Power Generation

El Paso Electric Company

310 E. Palm Lane, Suite 310

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Jeffrey T. Weikert

Assistant General Counsel

El Paso Electric Company

Mail Location 167

123 W. Mills

El Paso, TX 79901

John W. Schumann

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Southern California Public Power Authority

P.O. Box 51111, Room 1255-C

Los Angeles, CA 90051-0100

Arizona Public Service Company

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

Cheryl Adams
Southern California Edison Company
5000 Pacific Coast Hwy. Bldg. DIN
San Clemente, CA 92672

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

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

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