

March 21, 2006

Mr. James M. Levine
Executive Vice President, Generation
Mail Station 7602
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 -
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT SUBMITTAL (TAC NOS. MC9425, MC9426,
AND MC9427)

Dear Mr. Levine:

By letter dated December 23, 2005, Arizona Public Service Company submitted a license amendment request for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The request is to extend the allowed out of service time for one inoperable emergency diesel generator from 72 hours to 10 days, add a clarifying note to Condition F of Technical Specification (TS) 3.8.1, "AC [alternating current] Sources - Operating," and revise TS 3.4.9, "Pressurizer," to delete the words which require that the two groups of pressurizer heaters be capable of being powered from an emergency power supply.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the information provided and determined that additional information is required in order to complete the evaluation. The additional information being requested is enclosed. As discussed with Glenn Michael of your staff, the NRC staff is requesting a response within 60 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-3062.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mel B. Fields, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encls: See next page

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Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET. AL.

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

DOCKET NOS. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, AND STN 50-530

By letter dated December 23, 2005, Arizona Public Service Company, submitted a license amendment request for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Units 1, 2, and 3. The request is to extend the allowed out of service (AOT) time for one inoperable emergency diesel generator (EDG) from 72 hours to 10 days, add a clarifying note to Condition F of Technical Specification (TS) 3.8.1, "AC [alternating current] Sources - Operating," and revise TS 3.4.9, "Pressurizer," to delete the words which require that the two groups of pressurizer heaters be capable of being powered from an emergency power supply.

The staff has reviewed the information provided and determined that the following additional information is required in order to complete the evaluation.

1. The staff finds that the compensatory measures listed on page 12 of Enclosure 2 are not comprehensive in nature. Please include the following compensatory measures in this list or provide justification for not including them:
 - a. The operability of the gas turbine generators (GTGs) will be verified by test before entering the extended EDG AOT.
 - b. The operability of the steam driven auxiliary feedwater pump will be verified before entering the extended EDG AOT.
 - c. The system dispatcher will be contacted once per day and informed of the EDG status, along with the power needs of the facility.
 - d. Should a severe weather warning be issued for the local area that could affect the switchyard or the offsite power supply during the AOT, an operator will be available locally at the GTG should local operation of the GTG be required as a result of on-site weather-related damage.
 - e. No discretionary maintenance will be allowed on the main and unit auxiliary transformers associated with the unit.
2. Are there any restrictions on the EDGs in the other two units when one EDG in one of the units is in extended AOT? Also, please confirm that no more than one EDG at the Palo Verde site will be in extended AOT at the same time.

3. Please discuss what types of communication protocol has been established between the control room operator at Palo Verde and transmission system operator (TSO). Is the TSO notified in advance that an EDG is going to be taken out for an extended period of time?
4. Does your TSO notify the plant operators when degraded grid conditions could occur and what action will be taken if degraded grid conditions occur during the EDG extended AOT?
5. In Section 4.1 of Enclosure 2, Page 10, you have stated that “The Gas Turbine (GT) system is comprised of two standby GTGs, either of which is capable of meeting the AC power requirements for any one of the three PVNGS units.” Also, on Page 11, you have stated that “Therefore, consistent with the defense-in-depth philosophy, the proposed change will continue to provide for multiple means to accomplish safety functions and prevent the release of radioactive material in the event of an accident.” The staff understands that GTGs are rated at 3.4 mega watts (MW) and loss of offsite power with forced shutdown load is 5.19 MW (Unit 2 - EDG A) and loss of offsite power with loss of coolant accident load is 5.281 MW (Unit 1- EDG B) per the Final Safety Analysis Report Table 8.3-3 (Page 8.3-29). Please explain how one GTG is capable of meeting the AC power requirements for any one of the three PVNGS units.
6. Please provide the current reliability and unavailability of the EDGs at PVNGS. Also, evaluate how these actual values relate to the target values committed for station blackout conditions.

Palo Verde Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3
cc:

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

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

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 40
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Harris Tower & Pavillion
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

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

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

Mr. Craig K. Seaman, General Manager
Regulatory Affairs and
Performance Improvement
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Mail Station 7636
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

Mr. Hector R. Puente
Vice President, Power Generation
El Paso Electric Company
310 E. Palm Lane, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85004

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

Mr. Thomas D. Champ
Southern California Edison Company
5000 Pacific Coast Hwy Bldg D1B
San Clemente, CA 92672

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

Mr. Jeffrey T. Weikert
Assistant General Counsel
El Paso Electric Company
Mail Location 167
123 W. Mills
El Paso, TX 79901

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

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

March 2006

Palo Verde Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3
cc:

Ms. Karen O'Regan
Environmental Program Manager
City of Phoenix
Office of Environmental Programs
200 West Washington Street
Phoenix AZ 85003

Mr. Matthew Benac
Assistant Vice President
Nuclear & Generation Services
El Paso Electric Company
340 East Palm Lane, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85004

March 2006