



Palo Verde Nuclear
Generating Station

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102-05522-CDM/TNW/GAM

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Attn: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2 and 3
Docket Nos. STN 50-528, 50-529, and 50-530
Clarification of Monitoring Core Exit Temperature During Reactor
Head Placement and Removal**

In letter no.161-04033, dated July 2, 1991, "Completion of Programmed Enhancement (1)(b) of Generic Letter 88-17 'Loss of Decay Heat Removal,'" APS stated the following:

The PVNGS [core exit thermocouple] design conforms to the recommendations in programmed enhancement (1)(b) of Generic Letter 88-17 in that two independent temperature measurements representative of the core exit (monitoring the two core exit thermocouples) are available whenever the reactor vessel head is located on top of the reactor vessel. In addition, the PVNGS design responds to the suggestion in programmed enhancement (1)(b) of Generic Letter 88-17 in that a temperature measurement representative of the core exit (monitoring the shutdown cooling heat exchanger inlet temperature) is provided at all times during shutdown cooling system operation.

As a matter of clarification, during the short period of time immediately following reactor head placement when the core exit thermocouples are not yet connected, and immediately prior to reactor head removal when the thermocouples are disconnected (normally no more than a few hours), the temperature measurement representative of the core exit is provided by monitoring the shutdown cooling heat exchanger inlet temperature during shutdown cooling system operation.

No action by the NRC is being requested and no commitments are being made to the NRC by this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Thomas N. Weber at (623) 393-5764.

Sincerely,

CDM/TNW/GAM/

A member of the **STARS** (Strategic Teaming and Resource Sharing) Alliance

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Removal
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cc: B. S. Mallett NRC Region IV Regional Administrator
M. B. Fields NRC NRR Project Manager
G. G. Warnick NRC Senior Resident Inspector for PVNGS