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FROM:

DUE: 09/02/03

EDO CONTROL: G20030485

DOC DT: 08/04/03

FINAL REPLY:

Senator John McCain  
(Robert Tilford)  
(DOE Referral)

TO:

Sen. McCain

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 03-0531

Travers, EDO

DESC:

Palo Verde Outage

ROUTING:

Travers  
Norry  
Paperiello  
Kane  
Collins  
Dean  
Burns  
Gwynn, RIV

DATE: 08/15/03

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Prepare response to Senator John McCain from  
Travers, EDO.

Template: SECY-017

mL032300441  
~~Non Public~~  
E-IDS: SECY-01



August 5, 2003

Senator John Mc Cain  
2400 east Arizona Biltmore Circle, Suite 1150  
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

RE: Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant

**CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDIUM**

Dear Senator John Mc Cain,

We can learn certain things from the recent "outage" at Palo Verde...

- 1) "Power lines" in and around the area near a Nuclear Power plant are vulnerable to "Tripping". (See article: "A-Plant unit down after outage will resume operation Monday", by Lindsey Collum, the Arizona Republic Newspaper 8-3-2003).

This situation may represent a "systemic flaw" in the security or design of Nuclear Power plants nationwide. One, which could be exploited by terrorists seeking to recreate or cause an "outage" situation similar to that which happened to Palo Verde.

Sincerely

*Robert Tilford*  
Robert Tilford  
1531 west Colter#25  
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Enclosures

? *Handwritten scribbles and initials*

August 4, 2003

Senator John Mc Cain  
2400 east Arizona Biltmore Circle, suite 1150  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

*REVERSE  
MSIC*

RE: Palo Verde Nuclear Power Generating Station "shut down"!

Dear Senator Mc Cain,

Salt River Project workers "Tripped power lines" causing Palo Verde Nuclear Power Generating Station to "shut down"! Meanwhile...Unit 3 remains out of commission until repairs are completed on a broken seal on a Nuclear reactor cooling pump - the cooling pump controls both the temperature in the core, and maintains the flow of water in the reactor itself.

According to Arizona Public Service spokesman "a leak could have developed if power had been restored before workers noticed the ruptured seal in the Nuclear reactor.

The "cooling pump" apparatus is located within a containment area for radioactive material, which could have been released, compromising the safety of both the plant workers and the public.

Palo Verde is expected to resume operation on Monday, August 4, 2003 (see attached article: "A-Plant unit down after outage will resume operation Monday", by Lindsey Collom, the Arizona Republic Newspaper, 8-03-2003).

Sincerely  
*Robert Tilford*  
Robert Tilford  
1531 west Colter#25  
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Cc: Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Cc: Arizona Corporation Commission  
Cc: Governor Janet Napolitano

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and it just gives us a good feeling," said John Day, Beaudry's corporate insur-

they set up. had a barbecue with friends, and on Monday morning, they reported hav-

years I'll live in walk to work and watch my house being built," she said.

# A-plant unit down after outage will resume operation Monday

8-03-03  
By Lindsey Collom  
The Arizona Republic

A 1,270-megawatt generator at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station may be back in operation Monday after being shut down for nearly a week due to a broken seal on a reactor cooling pump.

The broken seal was discovered last week after Salt River Project workers tripped power lines in the area, causing the plant to shut down.

Unit 3 remains out of service until repairs are complete.

Palo Verde spokesman

Jim McDonald said the pump, which maintains the flow of water in the reactor, did not leak.

He said a leak could have developed if power had been restored before workers noticed the ruptured seal.

"It is unusual to have to re-seal the reactor cooler pumps," McDonald said.

The pumps are located within a containment area. No radioactive material has been released, nor has the safety of the public or plant workers been compromised, the spokesman said.

Other APS plants around the state and in the Four Corners area are being used to

replace the power lost from Unit 3.

Plant officials have also purchased additional power to allay service interruptions.

"Palo Verde is a plant you like to have available at all times," he said. "(The closure is) not without some cost to us."

McDonald said the plant didn't inform the public or news media of the shutdown earlier last week because it is "not a safety issue. It's not even a power supply issue."

Reach the reporter at lindsey.collom@arizona-republic.com or (602) 444-7983.



**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

August 7, 2003

*PLEASE*

Ms. Annette Vietti-Cook  
Secretariat  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North Building  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

Because the subject of this letter does not fall within the purview of the Department of Energy, we are forwarding it to your agency for response.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (202) 586-8923.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda L. Mackall".

Brenda L. Mackall  
Work Group Leader  
Correspondence and Records Management  
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Handwritten initials "for" in black ink, positioned to the left of the typed name.



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# Complimentary Fax Cover Sheet

To: John C. Angell  
Assistant Secretary for Congressional  
and Intergovernmental Affairs  
US Department of Energy  
Forrestal Bldg, Room 7B138  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington DC 20585-0800

From: Robert Tilford  
1531 W COLTER #25  
Phoenix Arizona 85015

Fax# (202) 586-4891

Phone# ( )

Date:

Urgent  Confidential  Confirm Receipt

August 6, 2003

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Re: Palo Verde Nuclear power plant

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