

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,

(b)(6)



Enclosures

H-1

August 4, 2003

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

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,

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(b)(6)

[Handwritten signature]

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

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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

Fax # (202) 586-4891

Date:

August 6, 2003

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Re: Palo Verde Nuclear power plant

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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 7, 2003

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



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