Home Builders Association OF CENTRAL ARIZONA

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July 16, 2009

Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Mailstop TWB-5B01M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear NRC Board Members:

I am writing in support of the renewal application for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. Palo Verde's contribution to the State of Arizona with clean, reliable, and cost effective energy is of great importance to members of the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona (HBACA).

As President and Executive Director of the HBACA, I am intimately familiar with the need for a steady and low cost energy supply to support Arizona's economic growth, which has been largely spurred by housing. Our homeowners expect reliable power that can be swiftly repaired when storms knock down lines, blow transformers or otherwise cause an interruption in service. APS and the power it provides with Palo Verde have always ensured this.

As the state's largest power provider, APS's ability to continue to operate the existing Units at Palo Verde makes strong economic sense. It makes sense for homeowners and for homebuilders. Losing the low-cost reliable energy provided by Palo Verde, in addition to the number of jobs it creates, would be a damaging blow to an already weak housing market in Arizona.

APS's strong management team has led the state in efforts to keep energy efficiency a major goal for customers, while continuing to provide energy that balances environmental and development concerns. The Palo Verde Station is an important part of the Arizona economy and a symbol of Arizona's commitment to delivering clean, reliable, and cost effective energy to Arizona homeowners for decades to come. I urge your strong consideration in renewing Palo Verde's application.

Sincerely,

Connie Wilhelm
President and Executive Director
Home Builders Association of Central Arizona

SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013
E-RIDS = ADM-03
Addl = L. Regner (LMR2)

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