

September 22, 2009

Mr. Richard Milanovich, Chairperson
Agua Caliente Tribal Council
600 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PALO VERDE
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Milanovich:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) received an application from the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Palo Verde) on December 15, 2008, for the renewal of operating licenses NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74. Palo Verde is located in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 26 miles west of the Phoenix metropolitan area boundary. The NRC is in the initial stages of developing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), which will document the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed license renewal of Palo Verde.

We would like your assistance in our review by your participation in the NRC's environmental review scoping process. The NRC's process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51, Section 51.28(a)(5), the NRC invites your tribe to provide input relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

In letters dated June 1, 2009, the NRC previously contacted the following Federally-recognized tribes: Fort McDowell Yavapai Tribal Council, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council, San Carlos Tribal Council, Tohono O'odham Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council, Gila River Indian Community Council, Ak Chin Indian Community Council, Yavapai-Prescott Board of Directors, Tonto Apache Tribe, and Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Additionally, the NRC has sent copies of this letter to the following Federally-recognized tribes: Agua Caliente Tribal Council, Colorado River Tribal Council, and Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribal Council. The NRC will accept environmental review scoping comments from your tribe until November 23, 2009.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for Palo Verde will expire for Unit 1 on June 1, 2025; for Unit 2 on April 24, 2026; and for Unit 3 on November 25, 2027.

Provided for your information is the Palo Verde Site Layout (Enclosure 1) and Transmission Line Map (Enclosure 2). Please note that Enclosure 2 does not show the North Gila transmission line which runs from the Palo Verde plant to the Yuma substation. Additionally, attached you will find a compact disk containing copies of the license renewal application (LRA) and the GEIS.

The GEIS considered the environmental impacts of renewing nuclear power plant operating licenses for a 20-year period on all currently operating sites. In the GEIS, the NRC staff identified 92 environmental issues and developed generic conclusions related to environmental impacts for 69 of these issues that apply to all plants or to plants with specific design or site characteristics. For the remaining 23 issues, plant-specific analyses will be documented in a supplement to the GEIS.

A SEIS will be prepared for Palo Verde to document the staff's review of environmental impacts related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others), and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

Please submit any comments that you may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by November 23, 2009. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by e-mail at PaloVerde.EIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and mail a copy to you.

The Palo Verde LRA and the GEIS are available on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/palo-verde.html>. In addition, the Litchfield Park Branch Library, 101 West Wigwam Boulevard, Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340, has agreed to make the LRA and the GEIS available for public inspection.

The staff expects to publish the draft SEIS in May of 2010. A copy of the document will be sent to you for your review and comment. The NRC will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft SEIS. After consideration of public comments received, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS, which is scheduled to be issued in November of 2010.

R. Milanovich

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Regner, License Renewal Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-1906 or by email at Lisa.Regner@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-528, 50-529, and 50-530

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls.: See next page

September 22, 2009

Mr. Eldred Enas, Chairperson
Colorado River Tribal Council
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PALO VERDE
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Eddy:

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E. Enas

- 3 -

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Regner, License Renewal Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-1906 or by email at Lisa.Regner@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-528, 50-529, and 50-530

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls.: See next page

September 22, 2009

Mr. Mike Jackson Sr., President
Fort Yuma-Quechan
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PALO VERDE
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Jackson:

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M. Jackson

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Sincerely,

/RA/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-528, 50-529, and 50-530

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Enclosures:
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- RidsNrrDssSbpb Resource
- RidsNrrDssScvb Resource
- RidsOgcMailCenter Resource
- RidsOpaMail

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 - B. Mizuno
 - R. Treadway, RIV
 - G. Pick, RIV

Identical letters have been sent to the following persons: Richard Milanovich, Eldred Enas, Mike Jackson Sr.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML092570666 (Package), ML092570673 (Letter), ML091390369 (Enclosures)

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DATE	09/21/09	09/16/09	09/22/09

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station,
Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:

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Salt River Project
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Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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El Paso, TX 79901

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Southern California Public Power Authority
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Los Angeles, CA 90051-0100

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Public Utility Commission
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1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-3326

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, - 2 -
Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:

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Environmental Program Manager
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Joseph Manuel, Lt. Governor
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of the Gila River Indian Community
Gila River Indian Community Council
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Sacaton, AZ 85247