



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 12, 2010

Mr. James W. Garrison
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW (SHPO LOG NUMBER. 00x4-AT-
0x)

Dear Mr. Garrison:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) which is located in Maricopa County. PVNGS is operated by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS). As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437 (enclosed). The SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological and cultural properties from extended operation associated with license renewal. In accordance with our letter to you dated May 21, 2009, a copy of the draft supplement is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic properties.

As stated in our May 21, 2009 letter, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation. The staff views the APE for the PVNGS license renewal as including the PVNGS site and the immediate environs.

The NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site and has reviewed historic and archaeological records. The NRC staff also contacted 14 Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. To date, no comments have been received, concerning historic or archaeological information.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination based on a review of Arizona State Historic Preservation Office files, archaeological surveys, assessments, and other information, is that the potential impacts of license renewal on historic and archaeological resources is small. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed action. Further, APS has instituted a stop work order within its procedures to ensure that proper notification is taken to protect any historic and archaeological resources should they be discovered.

J. Garrison

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Please note that the period for public comment expires on October 29, 2010. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. David Drucker at 301-415-6223 or by e-mail at David.Drucker@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay Robinson, Chief
Program Operation Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure:
As stated

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J. Garrison

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Please note that the period for public comment expires on October 29, 2010. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. David Drucker at 301-415-6223 or by e-mail at David.Drucker@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jay Robinson, Chief
Program Operation Branch
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Enclosure:
As stated

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