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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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March 22, 2011

Randy Edington
Chief Nuclear Officer
Arizona Public Service Company
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
5801 S. Wintersburg Road
Tonopah, AZ 85354

Richard H. Silverman
General Manager
Salt River Project
Mail Station PAB236
P.O. Box 52025
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025

Dear Mr. Edington and Mr. Silverman:

I am writing to request that the Arizona-based owners of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Arizona Public Service (APS) and Salt River Project (SRP) answer the following questions, both in writing and in a presentation during an upcoming Open Meeting as soon as possible.

The earthquake and resulting tsunami, and on going nuclear tragedy beg that we ask these critical questions, and I welcome additional questions from my colleagues, nuclear experts and interested citizens.

Thanks for providing answers to these questions:

1. What are the sources of back-up power for PVNGS; how long would each system provide back-up power; please provide as much detail as possible.
2. What would happen if PVNGS had a total and sudden loss of power?
3. How much cooling water is stored on-site, does it require electricity or is it gravity-fed, how long would the cooling water last in case of catastrophic failure; please provide as much detail as possible.
4. How much waste is stored on-site; are there spent fuel ponds that are open to the air; please provide as much detail as possible.

I invite staff to submit questions and appreciate their time and expertise.

Sincerely,

Paul Newman
Commissioner

cc: Chairman Gary Pierce
Commissioner Bob Stump
Commissioner Sandra D. Kennedy
Commissioner Brenda Burns
Ernest G. Johnson
Janice Alward
Steve Olea