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**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

**PAUL NEWMAN**  
COMMISSIONER

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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