



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

March 28, 2011

Gary Pierce, Chairman
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ. 85007-2996

Dear Chairman Pierce:

Thank you for your letter of March 24th inviting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to participate in the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) Special Open Meeting scheduled for March 29, 2011. I understand the purpose of the meeting is to discuss with Arizona Public Service Company the existing safety procedures, measures and precautions at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station that would deal with an event similar to that which has occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi reactor site in Japan. The NRC understands and appreciates the great interest of the ACC in protecting the safety of the citizens of Arizona and the ACC's willingness to exercise its regulatory authority to its maximum extent to ensure that protection. As the safety regulator for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, the NRC shares that interest to ensure that the citizens of Arizona are protected from hazards from radioactive materials used or generated by our licensees. Unfortunately, the NRC is not able to support your request to participate on March 29, 2011, at such an early date.

NRC Region IV representatives, including a senior manager, will be in the area of Palo Verde this spring to perform the public meeting summary of the annual assessment of the site's performance for calendar year 2010. That meeting is currently scheduled to occur in mid-May 2011. As part of that trip, the NRC managers are willing to meet with the ACC Commissioners to brief them on the NRC's activities to that point in response to the Japanese reactor event. The NRC staff would be willing to conduct government-to-government meetings with the Commissioners to the extent allowed by ACC rules and Arizona laws.

The NRC has confidence that all U.S. nuclear power reactors continue to possess an acceptable safety margin based on the information that is currently known. The NRC is developing a two-phase review of all operating U.S. nuclear power reactors with respect to the Japanese reactor event and performance of that review has already begun. As part of the initial 90-day near term review, the NRC has developed a temporary instruction for inspection (TI 2515/183 – "Follow-up to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event") to be performed at every operating reactor site. I have enclosed a copy of that temporary instruction for your review. This instruction will be performed at Palo Verde and will be completed by April 29, 2011, with an inspection report to be issued two weeks following.

I will contact Mr. Ernest Johnson, Executive Director for the ACC, to inquire about the Commissioners' interest in meeting with the NRC representatives in May. If such interest exists,

I will coordinate with Mr. Johnson to schedule one or more meetings, as appropriate, in order to meet the ACC Commissioners' needs for important information to assure the protection of Arizona's citizens. Please feel free to contact me directly at (817)860-8267 or at bill.maier@nrc.gov if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



William A. Maier
Regional State Liaison Officer

Enclosure:
NRC TI 2515/183

cc (w/o Enclosure):
Aubrey Godwin, Director
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency
4814 South 40th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Ernest Johnson, Executive Director
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
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ADAMS: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review Complete		Reviewer Initials: BSA	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	
Category A		Non-publicly Available		Sensitive	
KEYWORD:					
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