



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

February 18, 2016

Mr. Randall K. Edington
Executive Vice President Nuclear/
Chief Nuclear Officer
Mail Station 7602
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 –
ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: LICENSE
AMENDMENT REQUEST TO REVISE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS TO
INCORPORATE UPDATED CRITICALITY SAFETY ANALYSIS (CAC NOS.
MF7138, MF7139, AND MF7140)

Dear Mr. Edington:

By letter dated November 25, 2015, as supplemented by letter dated January 29, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML15336A251 and ML16043A361), Arizona Public Service Company (APS, the licensee) submitted a license amendment request for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed amendment would modify technical specification (TS) requirements to incorporate the results of an updated criticality safety analysis for both new and spent fuel storage. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

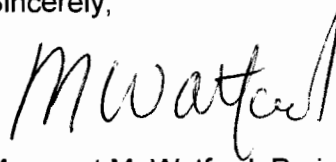
The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

R. Edington

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1233 or via e-mail at Margaret.Watford@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Watford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret M. Watford, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

cc: Distribution via Listserv

R. Edington

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1233 or via e-mail at Margaret.Watford@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Margaret M. Watford, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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and STN 50-530

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ADAMS Accession No. ML16043A389

***via email**

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NAME	MWatford	JBurkhardt	JDean*	RPascarelli	MWatford
DATE	2/17/16	2/16/16	2/11/16	2/18/16	2/18/16

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