

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Lingam, Siva
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 1:39 PM
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Cc: Pascarelli, Robert; Oesterle, Eric; Dean, Jeremy; Woodyatt, Diana; Beacon, Daniel; Hamm, Matthew; Michael.Dilorenzo@aps.com; Carl.Stephenson@aps.com
Subject: Palo Verde Units 1, 2, and 3 - Acceptance Review of Next Generation Fuel License Amendment and Exemption Requests (CAC Nos. MF8076, MF8077, and MF8078; MF8079, MF8080, and MF8081)

By letter dated July 29, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16188A336), Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, requesting an approval to revise the Technical Specifications (TSs) to support the implementation of next generation fuel (NGF). In addition to the LAR and in accordance with the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 50.12, the licensee is requesting an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems [ECCS] for Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors," and 10 CFR 50, Appendix K, "ECCS Evaluation Models," to allow the use of Optimized ZIRLO™ as a fuel rod cladding material. In summary, the proposed change will allow for the implementation of NGF including the use of Optimized ZIRLO™ fuel rod cladding material. The NGF assemblies contain advanced features to enhance fuel reliability, thermal performance, and fuel cycle economics. The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this LAR and exemption. 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.

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 LAR and exemption 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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