50-528

ACRS

JUN 26 1980

Ms. Eileen Jeffery
4719 East 1st Street
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Dear Ms. Jeffery:

In your letter to Robert Ryan dated April 9, 1980, you requested information on the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) located approximately 35 miles west of Phoenix, Arizona.

Your first question was concerned with spent fuel storage. PVNGS Units 1, 2 and 3 will each include a separate fuel building. Each building will house a new fuel area, a spent fuel pool, a shipping cask area, and a fuel pool cooling and cleanup system. The fuel handling system is designed to handle the spent fuel underwater from the time it leaves the reactor until it is placed in a cask for shipment offsite. The NRC has reviewed the design criteria and bases for the spent fuel storage facilities and has found them to be acceptable. A more detailed description of the spent fuel storage facilities may be found in Section 9.1 of the Palo Verde Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). A copy of the FSAR may be found in your Local Public Document Room located at the Phoenix Public Library, 12 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

A second question which you raised was concerned with the education and skill level of nuclear plant personnel. Control room operators are required to undergo an extensive training program which includes not only classroom instruction but also simulator training. Prior to obtaining a license, reactor operators are given examinations by the NRC. As a result of the TMI-2 accident, the operator training programs have been expanded and improved. In addition, all reactors are now required to have a Shift Technical Advisor (STA) available at all times. The STA is a trained engineer whose function is to act as an advisor to the control room personnel in the event of an emergency. A number of additional criteria, aimed at improving the "man-machine interface", have been and are being developed by the NRC.

You were also interested in emergency evacuation plans. Since the accident at TMI-2, the NRC has established a number of new requirements related to emergency planning. These requirements were developed by the NRC Emergency Preparedness Group in conjunction with the local and state officials at each nuclear plant. Each plant is now required to establish an Emergency Operations Center from which critical decisions concerning evacuation can be made.

You expressed a concern regarding the "lack of authority" during the accident at TMI-2. The role of NRC in responding to emergencies has undergone careful scrutiny during the past year. As a result of this scrutiny, procedures have been developed which will assure that, in the event of an emergency, the NRC will assist when possible, direct when necessary, and inform the public factually on all activities.

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SURNAME	8007110526				
DATE					

In your last question, you asked for information comparing PVNGS with TMI. The PVNGS units and TMI units are all pressurized water reactors (PWRs). However, there are a number of design differences between PVNGS and TMI. These differences are due mainly because the PVNGS reactors and reactor coolant systems are designed by Combustion Engineering, Incorporated (CE), whereas the TMI reactors and reactor coolant systems are designed by Babcock and Wilcox (B&W). One of the major design differences is found in the steam generators which are used to transfer heat out of the reactor. Systems and components which contributed to the incident at TMI-2 (e.g., auxiliary feedwater system, power-operated relief valves) have been carefully re-examined by the NRC. As a result of this re-examination, a number of design changes have been required for all reactors, including PVNGS. A summary of the actions required of all reactors as a result of the TMI-2 accident may be found in NUREG-0660 "NRC Action Plan Developed as a Result of the TMI-2 Accident". A copy of this document can be found in the Local Public Document Room.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us. For your information, the NRC Project Manager for PVNGS is Janis Kerrigan, who may be contacted on 301-492-8423 or by writing to the NRC. The NRC Resident Inspector for PVNGS is Lewis Vordenbruggen who may be contacted on 602-271-9374, or by writing to US NRC, c/o TTL/LGX, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona 85309.

Sincerely,

/S/

A. Schwencer, Acting Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing

OFFICE	DL:LB #3	DL:LB #3				
SURNAME	JKerrigan:mec	ASchwencer				
DATE	6/ /80	6/ /80				

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FROM:	DATE OF DOCUMENT	DATE RECEIVED	NO
Eileen Jeffery Tucson, Az 85711	4/9/80	4/30/80	NRR-3984

LTR	MEMO.	REPORT.	OTHER:
X			

TO:	ORIG.	CC:	OTHER:
Robert Ryan	X		

ACTION NECESSARY	XX	CONCURRENCE	☐	DATE ANSWERED: 5/15/80
NO ACTION NECESSARY	☐	COMMENT	☐	BY 5/15/80

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DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)

REQUESTS INFO COMPARING TMI-2 w/PALO VERDE FACILITIES

ENCLOSURES:

REFERRED TO	DATE	RECEIVED BY	DATE
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Copies To:			
H. R. Denton E. G. Case			
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