

EVALUATION OF A REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-141

FOR THE PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. STN 50-528

Introduction

Construction Permit No. CPPR-141 was issued on May 25, 1976 to the Arizona Public Service Company, Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Southern California Edison Company, El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico and Arizona Electric Power Cooperative. The Construction Permit was subsequently amended to delete the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative as a co-owner and to include as co-owners, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Public Power Authority and M-S-R Public Power Agency. The latest date for completion of construction of this facility, as stated in the permit, is November 1, 1982. By letter dated October 12, 1982, the Arizona Public Service Company filed a request for extension of the latest construction completion date to August 31, 1983.

Discussion

In its application for extension of the construction completion date, the Arizona Public Service Company indicated that a number of factors are responsible for the delay in completion of the construction activities. They are:

- 1) Late delivery of key electrical and instrumentation and control equipment;
- 2) Changes and additions to the Palo Verde design associated with TMI modifications necessary for an operating license;
- 3) Changes in regulatory requirements other than those resulting from the TMI accident; and
- 4) Lack of available qualified personnel to perform preoperational testing and other problems associated with the transition from the construction phase to the start-up phase.

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Collectively, these factors have led the Arizona Public Service Company to conclude that construction of Palo Verde Unit 1 would not be completed until nine months, plus or minus one month, after November 1, 1982. The requested extension to August 31, 1983 for CPPR-141 includes an allowance for the one month uncertainty associated with the schedule analysis.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in the Arizona Public Service Company's submittal and concludes that the factors discussed above constitute good cause for granting the requested extension. The staff has evaluated each factor contributing to the construction delay and concurs with the permittees as to the reasonableness of time estimated for the delay. As a result of the staff's review of the Final Safety Analysis Report to date, and considering the nature of the delays, the staff has identified no areas of significant safety consideration in connection with the extension of the construction completion date for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1. The only change proposed by the permittees to the existing construction permit is an extension of the latest construction completion date. This extension will not allow any work to be performed involving new safety information of a type that was not considered by previous Commission safety reviews of the facility and that is not already allowed by the existing construction permit. Therefore, the staff finds that (1) this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) prior public notice of this action is not required, (3) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by the requested extension of the construction completion date, and (4) good cause exists for issuance of an Order extending the construction completion date.

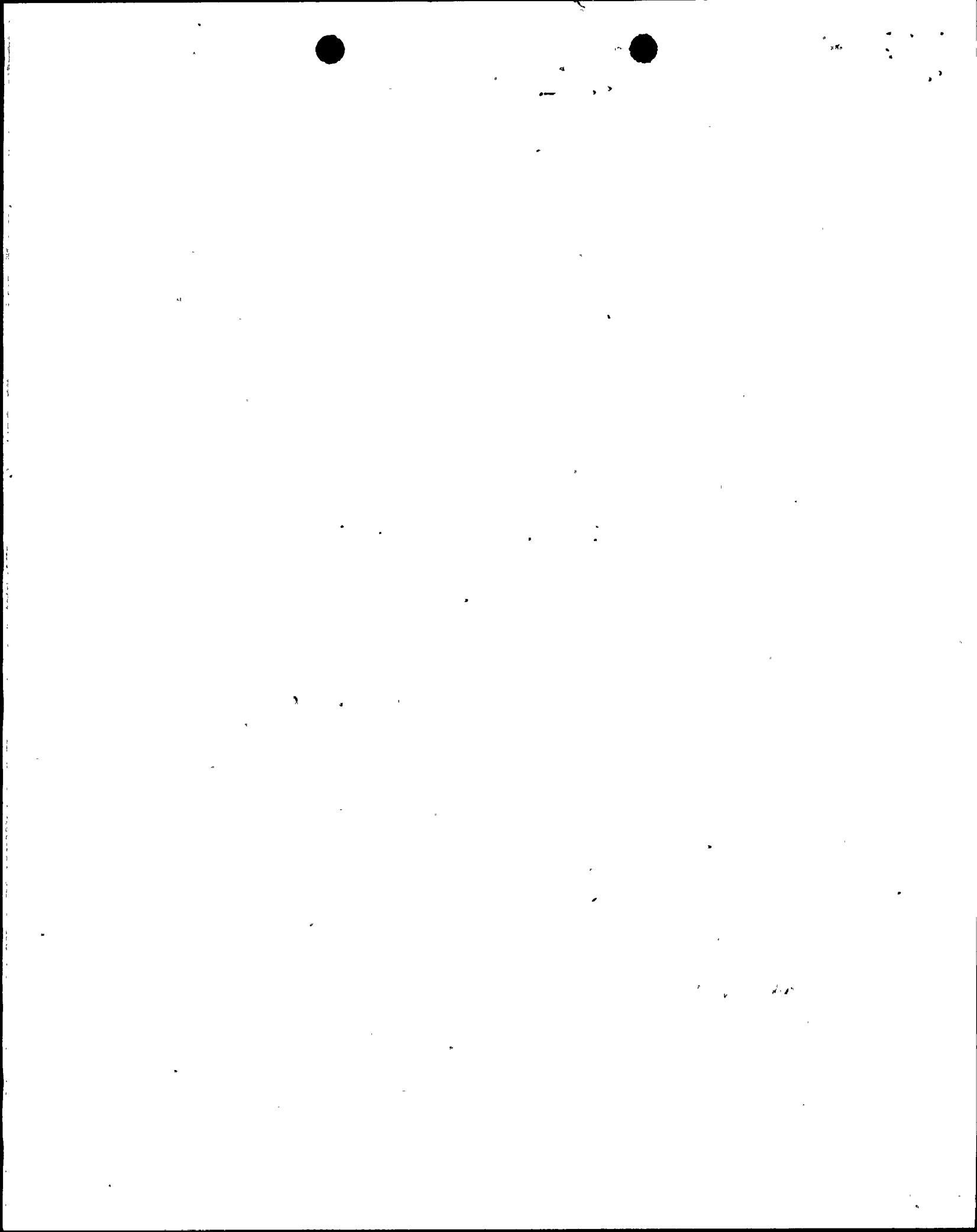
The staff has determined that this Order does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amount nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, the staff concludes that this Order involves action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact, and that pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5 (d)(4), an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this Order.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the staff concludes that issuance of an Order extending the latest construction completion date for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1, as set forth in CPPR-141, to August 31, 1983 is reasonable and should be authorized.

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