

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 for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 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, and Southern California Public Power Authority. The latest date for completion of construction of this facility, as stated in the permit and amended by an Order issued on November 4, 1982, is August 31, 1983. By letter dated May 12, 1983, the Arizona Public Service Company filed a request for extension of the latest construction completion date for Palo Verde Unit 1 to December 31, 1983. Subsequently, by letter dated September 9, 1983, the Arizona Public Service Company amended the request to extend the latest construction completion date to December 31, 1984.

Discussion

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

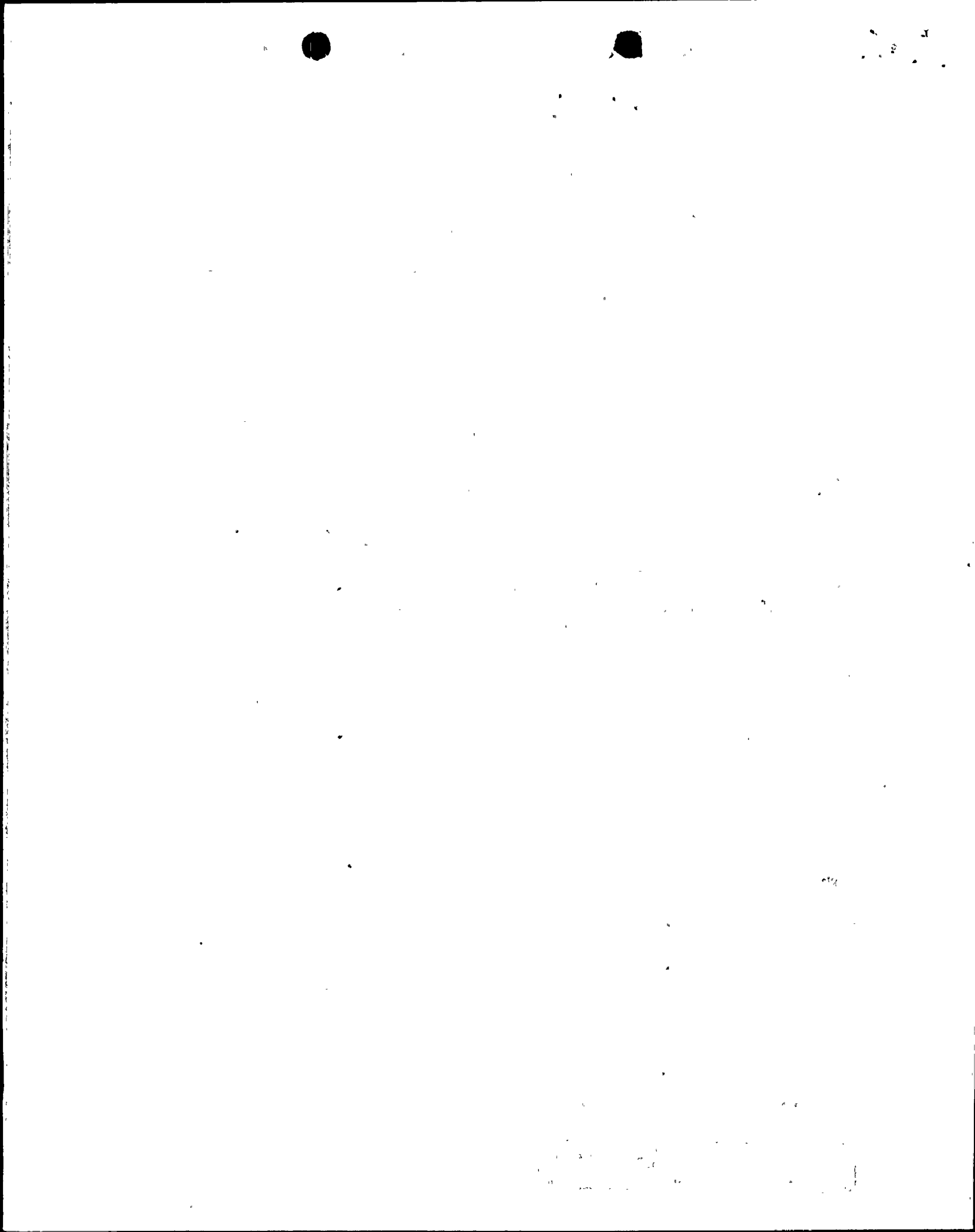
- (1) late delivery of certain electrical instrumentation and control equipment;
- (2) changes and additions to the Palo Verde design required to meet NUREG-0737 requirements necessary for an operating license have introduced complexities which have impacted and delayed pre-operational testing and the transition from the construction phase to the start-up phase; and
- (3) corrections of deficiencies discovered during and subsequent to the hot functional tests conducted for Palo Verde Unit 1 cannot be completed until sometime after December 31, 1983.

The first two factors were identified in the original request for extension and account for four months of the delay. The third factor was identified in the amended request and accounts for the remainder of the delay. Collectively, these factors have led the Arizona Public Service Company to conclude that construction of Palo Verde Unit 1 would not be completed by August 31, 1983 and Arizona Public Service Company has requested a 16-month extension of the latest completion date to December 31, 1984.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in the Arizona Public

Service Company's submittal. Based on that review, the staff concurs with the permittee as to the reasonableness of time estimated for the delay.....

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In particular, the efforts for correcting the deficiencies discovered subsequent to the hot functional tests have already taken several months and the staff expects that several more months will be required before the deficiencies have been fully resolved. Therefore, the staff concludes that the factors discussed above constitute good cause for granting the requested extension.

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 of 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) the extension of the latest completion date in the construction permit 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.

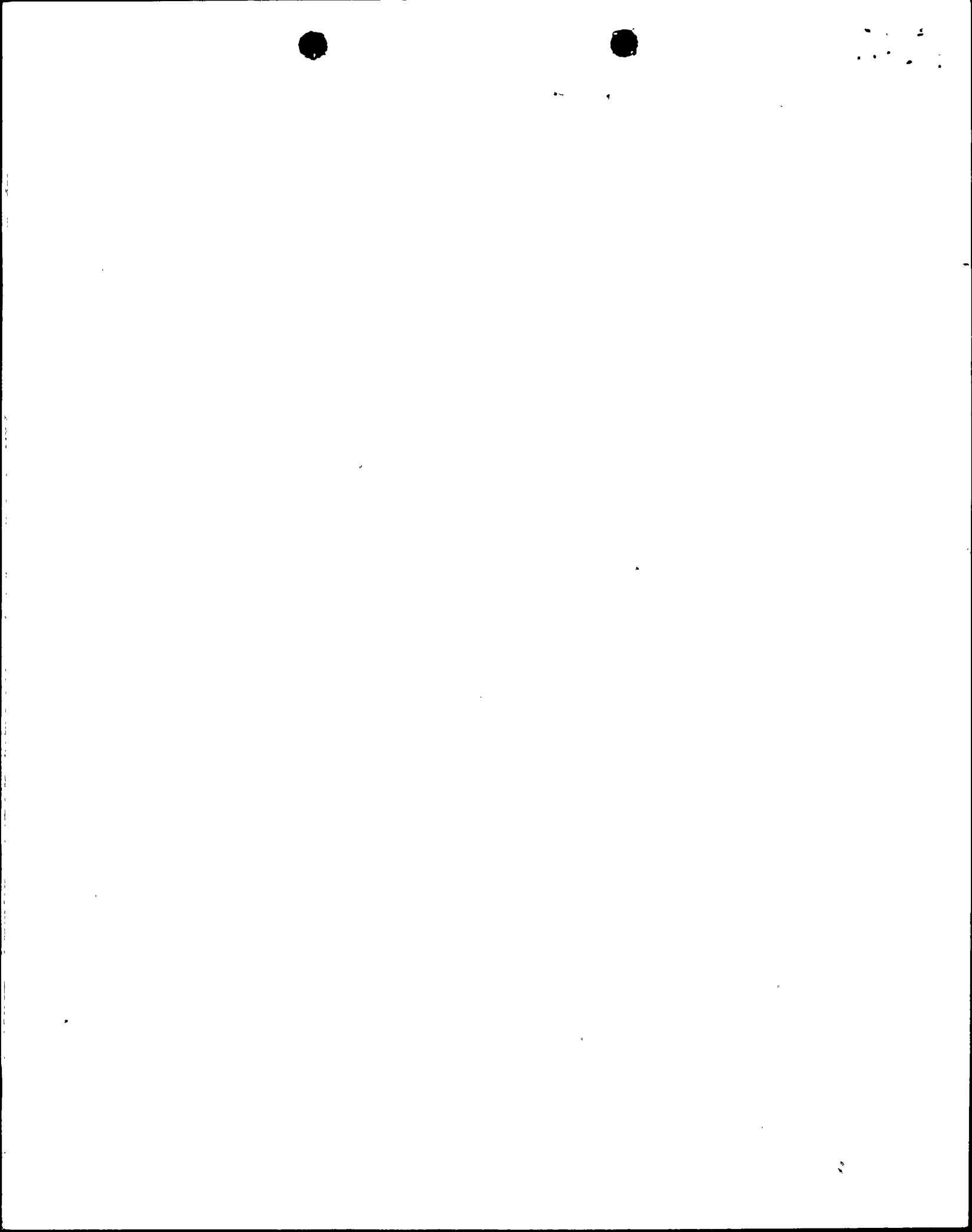
Conclusion

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 December 31, 1984 is reasonable and should be authorized.

Dated: DEC 29 1983

*See previous concurrence

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