



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-41
AND AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-46
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.
PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-528 AND STN 50-529

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 19, 1985, the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) on behalf of itself, the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Southern California Edison Company, EL Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority (licensees), requested a one-time change to the Technical Specifications for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (Appendices A to Facility Operating Licenses NPF-41 and NPF-46, respectively). The application requests that for Specification 3.6.4.2 on hydrogen recombiners, an exception to the provisions of Specification 3.0.4 be granted during the time (not to exceed March 30, 1986) that environmental qualification modifications are being made to the hydrogen recombiner system when the containment hydrogen purge system described in Specification 3.6.4.3 is operable.

2.0 DISCUSSION

Palo Verde Units 1 and 2 are currently completing the environmental qualification testing for the hydrogen recombiner system, specifically the control panels for the system. Upon completion, APS will replace the existing panels at the plant with the qualified panels.

The function of the hydrogen recombiner system is to maintain the hydrogen concentration inside containment below its flammable limit in the event of a postulated loss-of-coolant accident. The system consists of two redundant hydrogen recombiners and is designed so that any one of the two recombiners can perform this function if the other recombiner is inoperable. In addition, the containment hydrogen purge system can also perform this function.

Technical Specification 3.6.4.2 provides the following action statement if one of the two hydrogen recombiners is inoperable:

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- (a) restore the inoperable recombiner to operable status within 30 days or be in at least hot standby within the next 6 hours, or
- (b) meet the requirements of Technical Specification 3.6.4.3 for operability of the containment hydrogen purge system.

Action item (b) above permits continued operation of the plant without restrictions. Hence modifications to the recombiners can be made while the plant is operating without restrictions when using action item (b). However, if the plant is not operating or has been shutdown, Technical Specification 3.0.4 prohibits the use of any action statement to resume power operation.

During the time that the modifications to the hydrogen recombiners are being made, APS requests that the provisions of Specification 3.0.4 be excluded from Specification 3.6.4.2. This exception would be in effect only during the modifications and when the containment hydrogen purge system described in Specification 3.6.4.3 is operable. The exception would expire upon completion of the modifications or on March 30, 1986, whichever comes first.

APS states that the proposed change will not increase the probability of occurrence or consequences of an accident previously evaluated, nor will it create the possibility of a different type of accident than previously evaluated, since the change will not result in operation of the plant outside of its current design basis (i.e., the plant will continue to have available one hydrogen recombiner and the containment hydrogen purge system to maintain hydrogen concentration inside containment below flammable limits in the event of an accident). Additionally, the proposed change will not reduce the margin of safety since it does not increase the out-of-service interval for the hydrogen recombiners.

3.0 EVALUATION

The staff has evaluated the licensees' request and concurs with the above APS evaluation that this one-time exception to the Technical Specifications will not create the possibility for an accident or malfunction of a different type than any evaluated previously. In addition, during the time that the change is in effect, plant operation will be conducted only while both a hydrogen recombiner and the containment hydrogen purge system are operable.

Therefore, the staff concludes that the one-time exception to Technical Specifications for the purpose of making environmental qualification modifications to the hydrogen recombiner system is acceptable.

4.0 CONTACT WITH STATE OFFICIAL

The Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency has been advised of the proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration with regard to this request for one-time exception to the Technical Specifications. No comments were received.

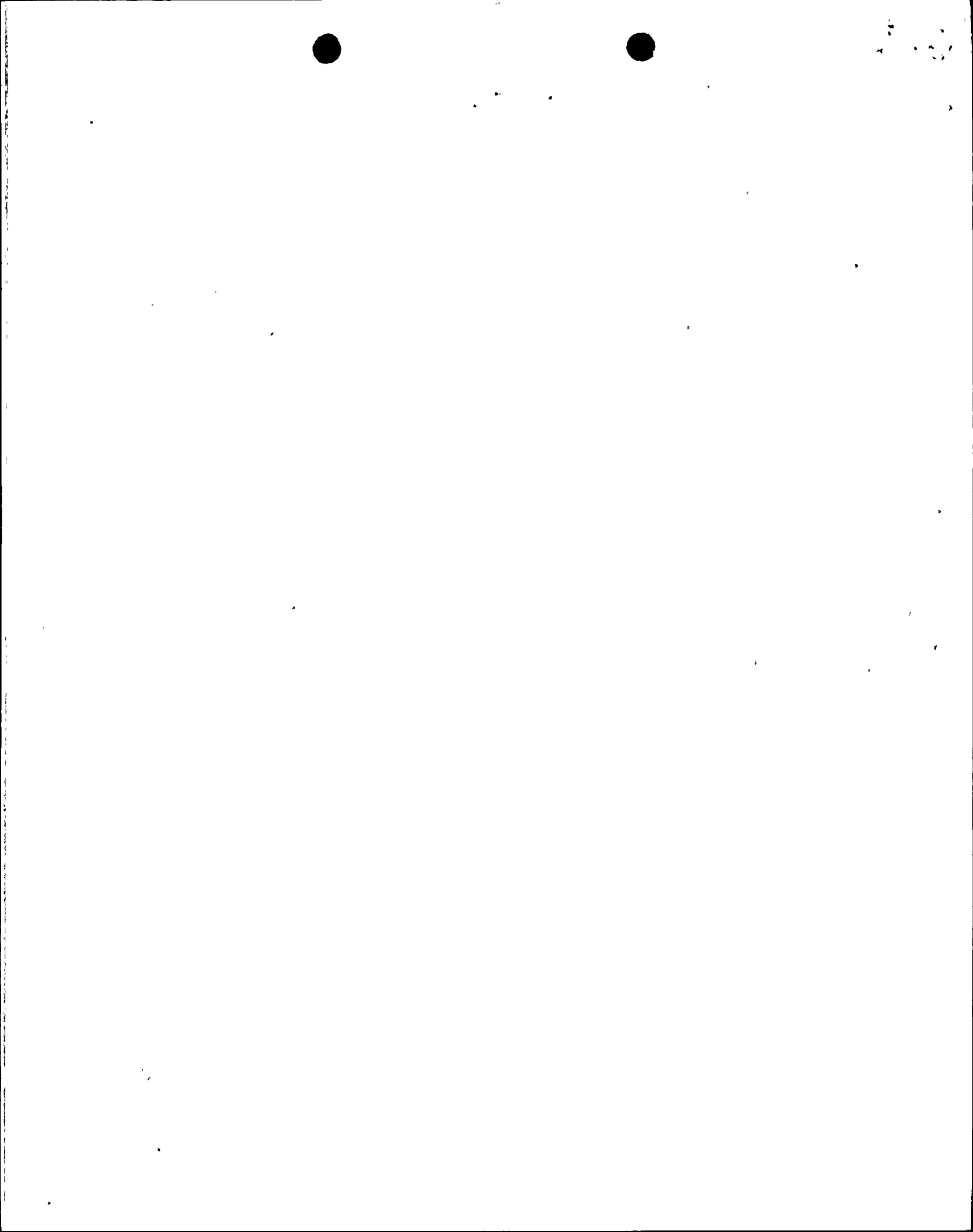
5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

These amendments involve changes in the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area. The staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite and that there is no significant increase in individual or commulative occupation radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued proposed findings that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such findings. Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Sec. 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need to be prepared in connection with the issuance of these amendments.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public. We, therefore, conclude that the proposed changes are acceptable.

Dated: JAN 27 1986



JAN 27 1986

ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO FACILITY OPERATING
LICENSE NPF-41 FOR PALO VERDE UNIT 1 AND AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-46 FOR PALO VERDE UNIT 2

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