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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 14 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-41

AND AMENDMENT NO. 8 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-51

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 July 14, 1986, as supplemented by letters dated December 2, 1986 and February 9, 1987, 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 changes to the Technical Specifications for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (Appendices A to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41 and NPF-51, respectively). In accordance with the guidance issued in Generic Letter 86-10, the application requests the deletion of certain sections in the Technical Specifications pertaining to the fire protection program.

2.0 DISCUSSION

In Generic Letter 86-10, the staff indicated that those licensees whose documented fire protection program is included in the FSAR may request an amendment to their operating licenses to substitute the standard fire protection license condition identified in the generic letter and delete certain technical specifications related to the fire protection program. Accordingly, the licensees have proposed to delete the following sections of the plant Technical Specifications and their corresponding bases since the Fire Protection Program is currently included in the Palo Verde FSAR:

(1) Section 3/4.3.3 - Monitoring Instrumentation

(a) Specification LCO 3.3.3.7 and Surveillance Requirements 4.3.3.7.1 and 4.3.3.7.2 - Fire Detection Instrumentation

(2) Section 3/4.7.11 - Fire Suppression Systems

(a) Specification LCO 3.7.11.1 and Surveillance Requirements 4.7.11.1.1, 4.7.11.1.2., and 4.7.11.1.3 - Fire Suppression Water System

(b) Specification LCO 3.7.11.2 and Surveillance Requirement 4.7.11.2 - Spray and/or Sprinkler Systems

(c) Specification LCO 3.7.11.3 and Surveillance Requirements 4.7.11.3.1 and 4.7.11.3.2 - CO_2 Systems

(d) Specification LCO 3.7.11.4 and Surveillance Requirement 4.7.11.4 - Fire Hose Stations

(e) Specification LCO 3.7.11.5 and Surveillance Requirement 4.7.11.5 - Yard Fire Hydrants and Associated Hydrant Hose Houses

(f) Specification LCO 3.7.11.6 and Surveillance Requirement 4.7.11.6 - Halon Systems

(3) Section 3/4.7.12, Specification LCO 3.7.12 and Surveillance Requirements 4.7.12.1 and 4.7.12.2 - Fire Rated Assemblies

The licensees have also proposed to amend the operating license for Palo Verde, Unit 1 to substitute the standard fire protection license condition delineated in Generic Letter 86-10. The operating license for Palo Verde, Unit 2 already has the standard condition.

3.0 EVALUATION

During the review of the license amendment requests, the staff raised certain issues regarding the licensees' proposal. The first concern was that by deleting the fire protection technical specifications, the audit requirements and fire brigade manning requirements would be removed. However, the licensees have not proposed to delete the requirements for annual fire protection audits from the Administrative Controls Section of the Technical Specifications or change the requirements for the fire brigade. Thus, this staff concern was resolved.

The staff was also concerned that deletion of the fire protection technical specifications would mean that any degradation of fire protection systems and fire barriers would not be properly reported to the staff. By letter dated December 2, 1986, the licensees have proposed to report such conditions to the staff in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.73, which is acceptable to the staff. This requirement will be included as Paragraph 6.9.3 under the Special Reports provisions of the Technical Specifications.

The staff further questioned whether the limiting conditions for operation, the surveillance requirements, and the action statements of the current technical specifications would be maintained in the new plant fire protection procedures once the fire protection technical specifications were deleted. By letter dated February 9, 1987, the licensees affirmed that with one exception, the above provisions of the Technical Specifications will be reflected in the plant procedures. The exception concerns use of video camera(s) in high radiation areas in lieu of fire watches when certain fire protection systems or fire barriers are inoperable or degraded. The staff finds that the licensees' response acceptably resolves this concern.

Based on the above evaluation, the staff concludes that the proposed changes to the fire protection technical specifications and substitute provisions are in accordance with the guidance contained in Generic Letter 86-10 and are, therefore, 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 amendment request. No comments were received.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

These amendments involve changes in recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. 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)(10). 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.

Principal Contributor: D. Kubicki

Dated: April 8, 1987

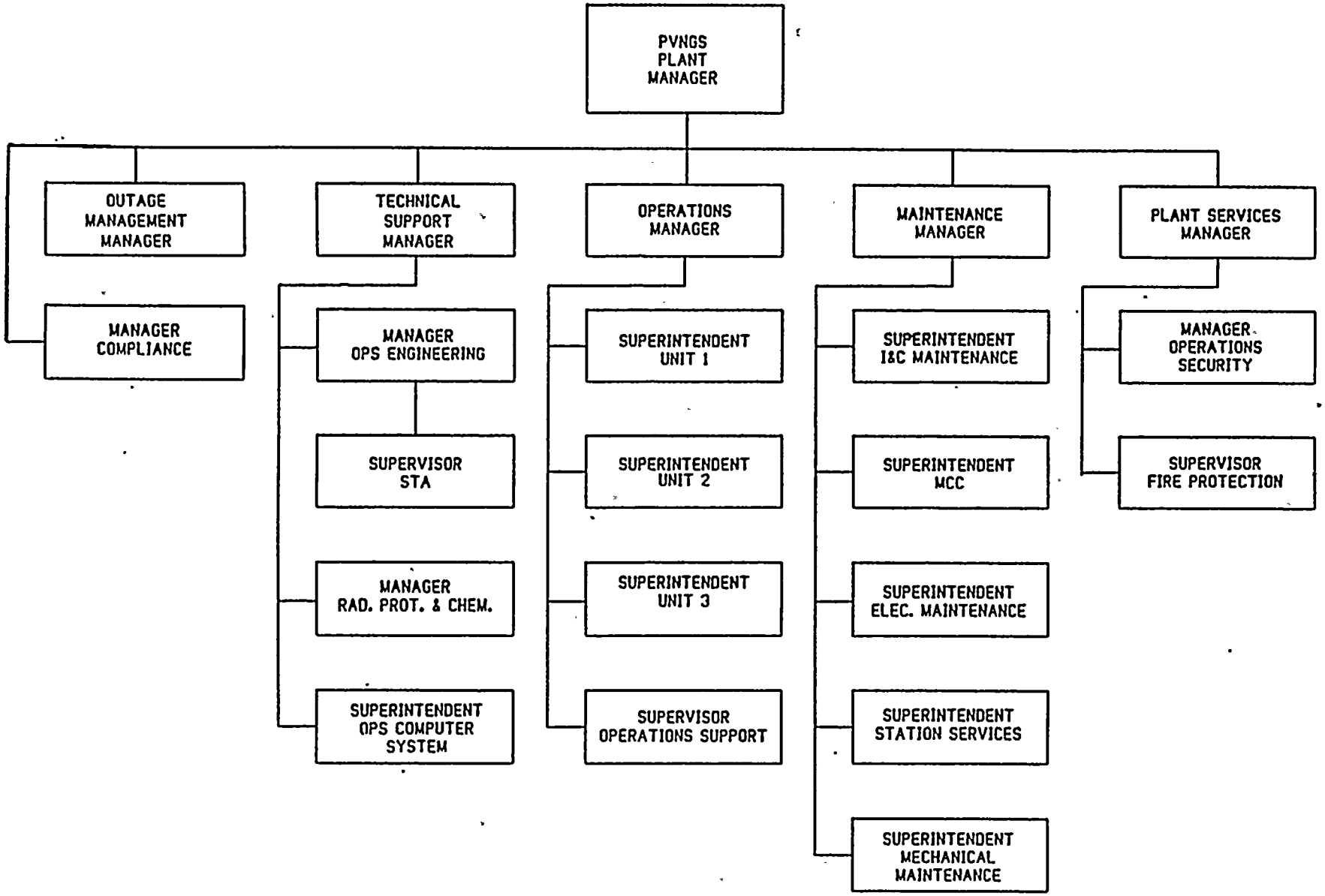

FIGURE 6.2-2

ONSITE ORGANIZATION

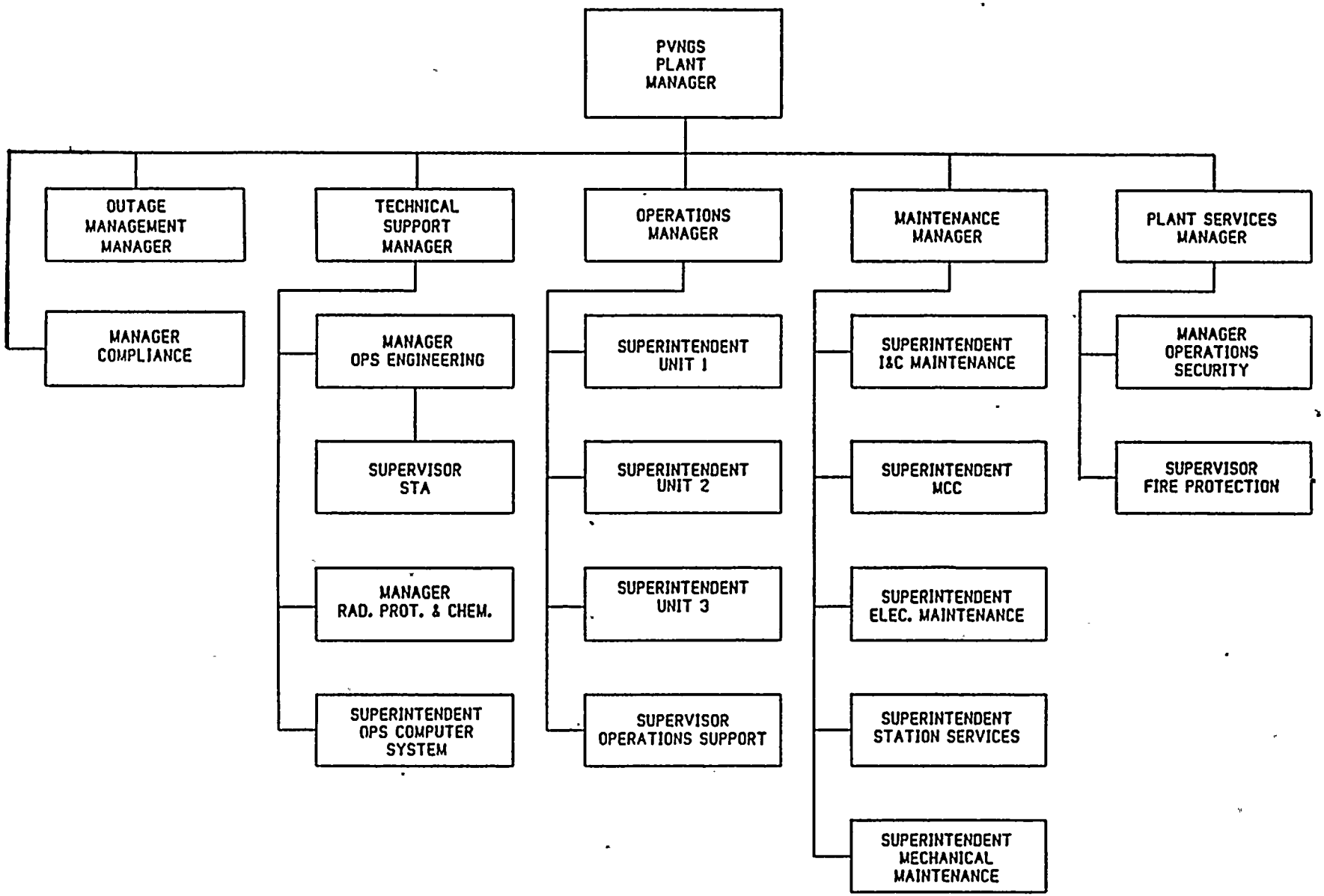

FIGURE 6.2-2

ONSITE ORGANIZATION