



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 20 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-41
AND AMENDMENT NO. 11 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 50-529

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated June 24, 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 a change to the Technical Specifications for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (Appendix A to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41 and NPF-51, respectively). The proposed change would revise the required level of the condensate storage tank in Specification 3.7.1.3 from 23 feet to an indicated level of 25 feet.

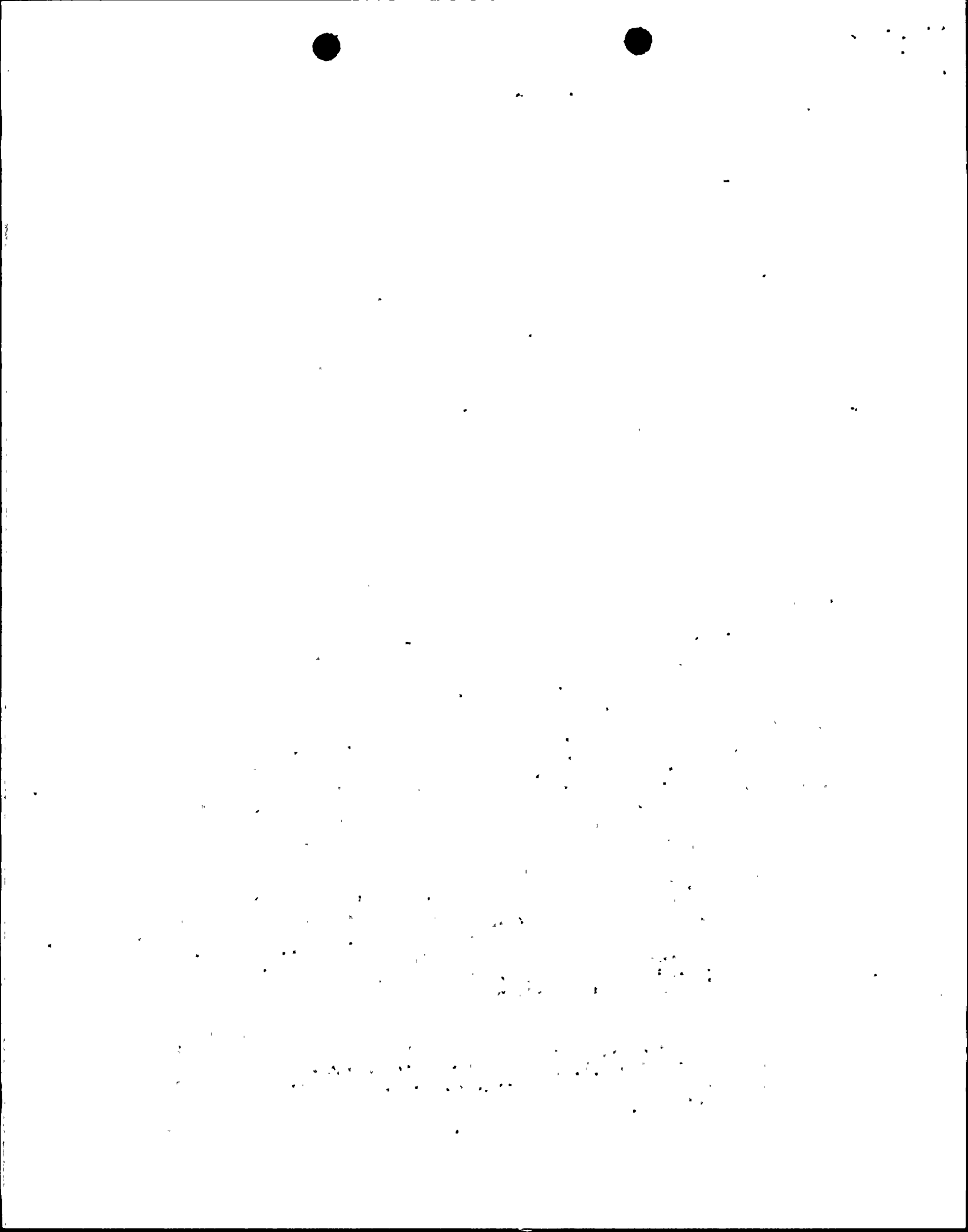
2.0 DISCUSSION

Technical Specification 3.7.1.3 for Palo Verde, Units 1 and 2 currently states that the condensate storage tank (CST) shall be operable with a level of at least 23 feet (300,000 gallons). An inventory of 300,000 gallons in the CST is required under the most limiting conditions to permit the auxiliary feedwater system to maintain the reactor coolant system at hot standby conditions for four hours followed by a natural cooldown to shutdown cooling entry conditions.

In the June 24, 1987 amendment request, the licensees pointed out that an engineering calculation has shown that a CST level of 23 feet only ensures that 280,540 gallons of feedwater is available to the auxiliary feedwater pumps, as compared to the 300,000 gallons required. The licensees stated the engineering calculation also showed that a minimum CST level of 25 feet, as indicated on the control room level indicator, will ensure that the required 300,000 gallons will be provided to the auxiliary feedwater pumps.

As a result, the licensees have proposed a change in the required CST level in Specification 3.7.1.3 from 23 feet to an indicated level of 25 feet in order to ensure that the safety analysis assumption of 300,000 gallons is satisfied.

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3.0 EVALUATION

The staff has reviewed the licensees' request and has made the following determinations. The staff concurs with the licensees' finding that an indicated level of 25 feet in the CST is required in order to ensure that 300,000 gallons of feedwater is available to the auxiliary feedwater system for decay heat removal. The staff had previously reviewed this matter prior to licensing Palo Verde, Unit 3 (Facility Operating License No. NPF-65), which is of the same design as Palo Verde, Units 1 and 2, and found it acceptable. As a result of that review, the Unit 3 Technical Specification 3.7.1.3 states that the required level for the CST is an indicated level of 25 feet. Therefore, the proposed change to Specification 3.7.1.3 for Palo Verde, Units 1 and 2, is consistent with Specification 3.7.1.3 previously reviewed and approved for Palo Verde, Unit 3.

On the basis of the above evaluation, the staff finds the proposed change to Specification 3.7.1.3 for Palo Verde, Units 1 and 2, to be 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 change. No comments were received.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

These amendments involve a change 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 and no significant change in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational 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 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need 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 change is acceptable.

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Dated: September 4, 1987

