March 25, 1988

Docket Nos.: 50-528, 50-529
and 50-530

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Mr. E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Arizona Nuclear Power Project
Post Office Box 52034
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034

Dear Mr. Van Brunt:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISED CONDITIONS FOR RCP SHAFT VIBRATION MONITORING
PALO VERDE, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. 67519, 67520 AND 67521)

By letter dated March 18, 1988, you submitted an application for proposed amendments to the operating licenses for Palo Verde, Units 1, 2, and 3, to revise the conditions relating to vibration monitoring of the RCP shafts. The request would revise the current conditions in the Unit 2 and 3 licenses and incorporate the proposed conditions into the Unit 1 license.

The requested amendments include the following proposed changes to your previously acceptable commitments relating to the RCP shaft vibration monitoring program.

(1) Reduce the number of required monitoring channels per pump from 2 to 1.

(2) Allow continued plant operation for at least 7 days when the monitoring capability on any RCP shaft is lost, and allow continued operation beyond that by using some other undefined monitoring capability.

(3) Remove the engineering requirement from the qualified individual who performs evaluations of vibration data.

(4) Delete the requirement for a plant shutdown upon reaching a vibration reading of 10 mils or greater on an RCP shaft if the reading is known to be caused by other than a cracked shaft. No other shutdown requirements are proposed for excessive vibration on such a pump.

(5) If shutdown of the plant is required, reduce the shutdown level from Mode 5 to Mode 3.

(6) Remove the requirement to extrapolate trending data if the cause of increasing shaft vibration is unknown.

(7) Other changes to the commitments such as qualifying the requirement for orbital monitoring to when its available.

We have reviewed your proposed changes and find that they are unacceptable because they represent a significant reduction in the safeguards against RCP shaft failure during plant operation that were previously determined to be necessary for public health and safety.

Therefore, we plan to take no further action on your March 18, 1988 submittal. We will continue to act on your March 2, 1988 amendment request to include into the Palo Verde Unit 1 license the same RCP shaft monitoring conditions currently in the Palo Verde Unit 2 and 3 licenses.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

original signed by

E. A. Licitra, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

DRSP/PDV	DRSP/D:PDV		
EALicitra:vr	GWKnighton	Marsh	GHolahan
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Mr. E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Arizona Nuclear Power Project

Palo Verde

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