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 RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
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SUBJECT: Requests temporary waiver of compliance from requirements of  
 Specification 3.7.7 during current Unit 3 refueling outage.  
 Temporary waiver of compliance requested from time reactor  
 enters MODE 6 until Train A control room returned to status.

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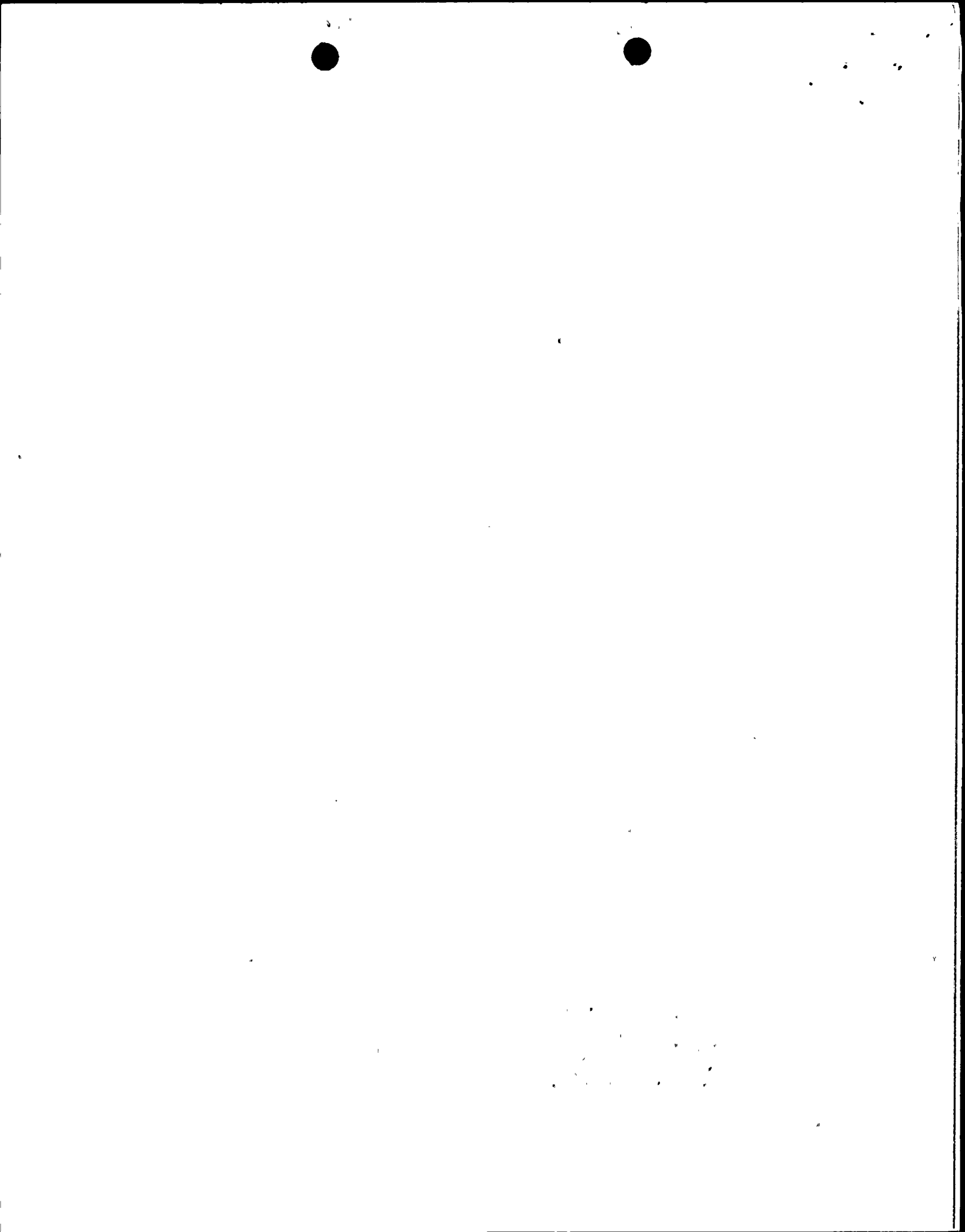
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# Arizona Public Service Company

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WILLIAM F. CONWAY  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
NUCLEAR

161-03886-WFC/GEC

April 19, 1991

Docket No. STN 50-530

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Mail Station P1-37  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)  
Unit 3  
Request for a Temporary Waiver of Compliance for  
Limiting Condition for Operation 3.0.4  
File: 91-056-026

Arizona Public Service (APS) requests a temporary waiver of compliance from the requirements of Specification 3.0.4 as it relates to entry into MODE 6 and 5 of Specification 3.7.7 during the current Unit 3 refueling outage. This temporary waiver of compliance is requested from the time the reactor enters MODE 6 until the Train A control room essential filtration system is returned to an operable status. This temporary waiver of compliance was discussed in conversations with Mr. Charles M. Trammell, NRR, on April 18 and 19, 1991.

### Description of Condition

This waiver of compliance is requested to allow commencement of fuel loading (MODE 6) activities and subsequent entry of the unit into COLD SHUTDOWN (MODE 5). The unit currently is defueled with fuel loading (entry into MODE 6) scheduled to begin on April 20, 1991 and entry into COLD SHUTDOWN (MODE 5) currently scheduled to occur on April 29, 1991. As a part of the outage maintenance activities, Train A of the essential spray pond system is currently inoperable. Train A of the control room essential filtration system, being dependent on the essential spray pond system, is therefore not considered operable.

The condition was not recognized early in the planning and scheduling process because there is no technical specification requirement for the essential (emergency) chilled water system in MODES 5 and 6. While reviewing plant conditions for anticipated entry into MODE 6, it was determined that Surveillance Requirement 4.7.7.d.4 was required to be met by independent trains of control room essential filtration. In order to meet this requirement both essential chilled water systems would need to be functional. At the time the determination was made, maintenance on the essential chiller and the essential cooling water systems had progressed to a stage where they could not readily be returned to service.

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Prior to the outage, PVNGS decided to off-load fuel from the Unit 1 reactor vessel since several evolutions were planned which would have required midloop operation. If the unit had not off-loaded the core and had remained in MODE 6, the ACTION would have been entered and this mode change restriction would not have occurred.

In the current, defueled condition (no mode) there is no restriction on the unit resulting from the inoperable Train A control room essential filtration system. However, upon commencement of fuel loading (entry into MODE 6) the unit will be in an Action Statement (ACTION a for MODES 5 and 6) requiring that APS "restore the inoperable system to OPERABLE status within 7 days or initiate and maintain operation of the remaining OPERABLE control room essential filtration system."

Limiting Condition for Operation 3.0.4 does not allow entry into an OPERATIONAL MODE while relying on provisions contained in the ACTION requirements. Therefore, as currently allowed by the technical specifications, fuel loading could not begin until completion of the current maintenance activities on the essential spray pond system and the system is returned to an operable status. The maintenance activities on the essential spray pond system are currently scheduled to be complete on May 1, 1991. Therefore, the waiver of compliance is requested to allow entry into MODES 5 and 6, with only one control room essential filtration system operable.

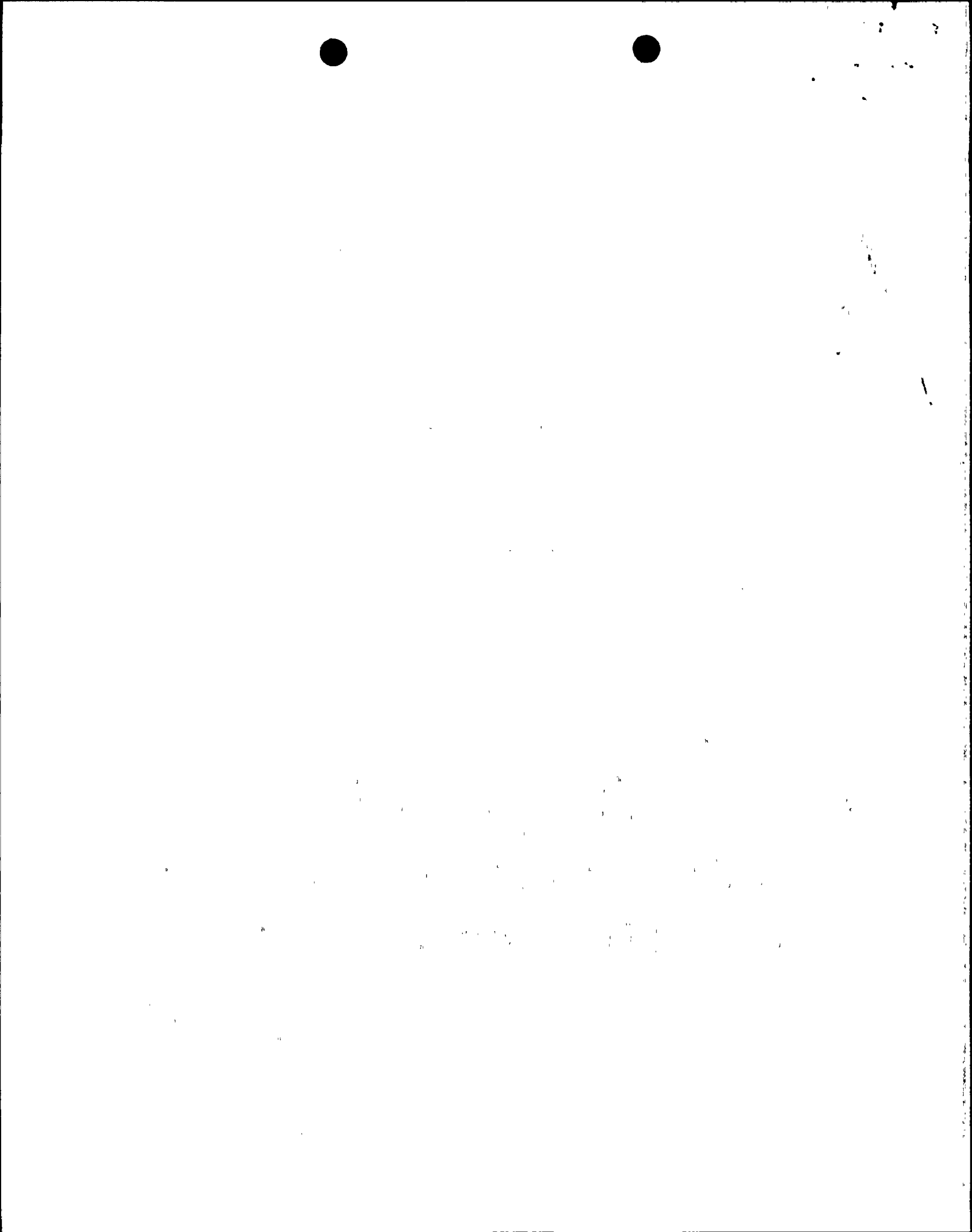
Compensatory Measures

During the period of this waiver the control room essential filtration system will be operated in conformance with ACTION requirements a and b of Limiting Condition for Operation 3.7.7 for MODES 5 and 6, and will be in conformance with the BASES for the control room essential filtration system.

Safety Evaluation

The purpose of the ACTION requirements for MODES 5 and 6 in Technical Specification 3.7.7 is to ensure that one train of the control room essential filtration system is operable at all times when the reactor is in MODES 5 and 6 and CORE ALTERATIONS or positive reactivity changes are occurring; and to further ensure that if both control room essential filtration systems are inoperable, that no CORE ALTERATIONS or positive reactivity changes occur during that period. The duration of the ACTION is not limited and once entered can continue indefinitely; consequently, there are no additional safety implications resulting from entering MODES 6 or 5 by relying on the provisions of the ACTION statements.

APS has performed a No Significant Hazards Analysis and Environmental Impact Consideration Determination, Enclosure A, and concluded that this waiver of compliance will have no adverse impact on the continued safe operation of the Unit 3. This waiver request has been concurred with by the Plant Review Board.



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161-03886-WFC/GEC  
April 19, 1991

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1), and by copy of this letter and enclosure, we have notified the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency of this request for a waiver of compliance.

Sincerely

*James M. Levine for WFC*

WFC/GEC/gec

Enclosure

cc: C. M. Trammell (all w/enclosure)  
J. B. Martin  
D. H. Coe  
A. C. Gehr  
A. H. Gutterman  
C. F. Tedford



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Enclosure A

Basis for No Significant Hazards Consideration

The Commission has provided standards for determining whether a significant hazards consideration exists as stated in 10 CFR 50.92. A proposed waiver of compliance to an operating license for a facility involves no significant hazards consideration if operation of the facility in accordance with a proposed waiver of compliance would not: (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

A discussion of these standards as they relate to this waiver of compliance request follows:

Standard 1: Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The waiving of the restriction of Specification 3.0.4 for entry into MODES 6 and 5 of Specification 3.7.7 does not involve an increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Specification 3.7.7 requires that two independent control room essential filtration systems be OPERABLE. For MODES 5 and 6, the Action Statement requires that: (a) "With one control room essential filtration system inoperable, restore the inoperable system to OPERABLE status within 7 days or initiate and maintain operation of the remaining OPERABLE control room essential filtration system." The Action Statement also requires that: (b) "With both control room essential filtration systems inoperable, or with the OPERABLE control room essential filtration system, required by ACTION a., not capable of being powered by an operable emergency power source, suspend all operations involving CORE ALTERATIONS or positive reactivity changes."

These Action Statements would be in effect had the unit entered MODE 6 or MODE 5 just before the maintenance activity was started on the essential spray pond system and the unit could continue operation under this condition for an indefinite period performing core alterations or positive reactivity changes associated with refueling. Therefore, temporarily waiving the Specification 3.0.4 restriction on entering MODE 6 or MODE 5 does not result in an increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated.

Standard 2: Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The waiving of Specification 3.0.4 restricting entry into MODES 6 and 5 does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated. The change does not affect operation of the plant except to allow entry into these modes with one control room essential filtration system inoperable. Immediately upon entering MODE 6 the applicable Action Statement will be entered and the unit will continue



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to operate within the restrictions of the Action Statements for the duration of the waiver period, thus ensuring that no possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated will be created.

Standard 3: Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The waiving of Specification 3.0.4 restricting entry into MODES 6 and 5 does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The change does not affect operation of the plant except to allow entry into these modes with one control room essential filtration system inoperable. Immediately upon entering MODE 6 the applicable Action Statement will be entered and the unit will continue to operate within the restrictions of the Action Statements for the duration of the waiver period, thus ensuring that no reduction in a margin of safety will occur.

Environmental Impact Consideration Determination

The proposed waiver of compliance request does not involve an unreviewed environmental question because operation of PVNGS Unit 3 in accordance with this change, would not:

1. Result in a significant increase in any adverse environmental impact previously evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) as modified by the staff's testimony to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board; or
2. Result in a significant change in effluents or power levels; or
3. Result in matters not previously reviewed in the licensing basis for PVNGS which may have a significant environmental impact.

As discussed above, no significant reduction in safety and no new accidents are introduced by this change. This waiver of compliance does not affect effluents or power levels, and consequently does not involve irreversible environmental consequences.



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