

Arizona Public Service Company
PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
P.O. BOX 52034 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85072-2034

JAMES M. LEVINE
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

102-02421-JML/TRB/NLT
February 22, 1993

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-37
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket No. STN 50-528 (License No. NPF-41)
Docket No. STN 50-529 (License No. NPF-51)
Docket No. STN 50-530 (License No. NPF-79)
Special Report 1-SR-93-001
File: 93-020-404

Enclosed please find Special Report 1-SR-93-001 prepared and submitted pursuant to PVNGS Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure (EPIP-03), "Notification of Unusual Event Implementing Actions." This report discusses a condition requiring the declaration of a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT due to the loss of assessment capability of all meteorological instrumentation caused by a loss of power during inclement weather.

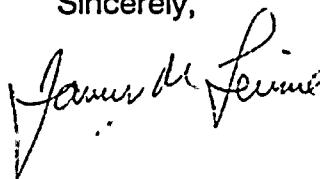
Arizona Public Service Company (APS) has evaluated the need for declaring a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT for meteorological instrumentation outages of short duration and for outages which are discovered upon review of historical data. APS will be submitting a change to the PVNGS Emergency Plan to the NRC which will clarify the conditions whereby a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT will be declared in the future. Until the change is implemented, APS will declare a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT in accordance with EPIP-02 when a loss of assessment capability of all meteorological instrumentation is discovered by Unit Operations during the performance of daily surveillance testing or upon notification of an existing outage.

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If you have any questions, please contact Thomas R. Bradish, Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs at (602) 393-5421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James M. Levine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

JML/TRB/NLT/nlt

Enclosure

cc: W. F. Conway (all with enclosure)
J. B. Martin
J. A. Sloan

ENCLOSURE

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT

DOCKET NO. 50-528, LICENSE NO. NPF-41

DOCKET NO. 50-529, LICENSE NO. NPF-51

DOCKET NO. 50-530, LICENSE NO. NPF-74

SPECIAL REPORT 1-SR-93-001

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT

**DOCKET NO. 50-528, LICENSE NO. NPF-41
DOCKET NO. 50-529, LICENSE NO. NPF-51
DOCKET NO. 50-530, LICENSE NO. NPF-74**

SPECIAL REPORT 1-SR-93-001

This Special Report is provided pursuant to PVNGS Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure (EPIP-03), "Notification of Unusual Event Implementing Actions," to report a condition requiring the declaration of an UNUSUAL EVENT for Palo Verde Units 1, 2, and 3 at approximately 0447 MST on February 15, 1993. The UNUSUAL EVENT was terminated at approximately 0505 MST on February 15, 1993.

On February 15, 1993, at approximately 0437 MST, Palo Verde Units 1, 2, and 3 were operating in Mode 1 (POWER OPERATION) at approximately 100 percent power when the Unit 1 Control Room was notified of a power outage which could potentially result in a loss of power to the Meteorological Tower. The Meteorological Tower provides the meteorological monitoring instrumentation for wind speed, wind direction, and air temperature indication required by Technical Specification 3.3.3.4. The operability of the instrumentation ensures that meteorological data are available for estimating potential radiation doses to the public as a result of routine or accidental release of radioactive material to the atmosphere. Control Room personnel confirmed that remote indication of meteorological data was unavailable. Remote meteorological data is normally available to Control Room personnel via the Emergency Response Facility Data Acquisition and Display System. In the event of an emergency, Radiation Protection will perform dose assessments using conservative "default values" when meteorological data is unavailable, in accordance with PVNGS Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure (EPIP-14), "Dose Assessment."

Control Room personnel contacted the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) Transmission Control Center and verified that there was a power outage which would result in a loss of power to the Meteorological Tower. An Auxiliary Operator was dispatched to the Meteorological Tower to confirm that power and local indication was lost. However, while in route to the Meteorological Tower, the Auxiliary Operator was notified that power had been restored and his assignment was terminated.

On February 15, 1993, at approximately 0447 MST, a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT was declared pursuant to PVNGS Emergency Plan Implementing Procedure (EPIP-02), "Emergency Classification," due to the loss of assessment capability of all

meteorological instrumentation caused by the loss of power during inclement weather. All appropriate state and local organizations and an NRC Resident Inspector were notified in accordance with EPIP-03.

The Meteorological Tower is powered from the APS distribution system for Buckeye, Arizona. This power source was used during the construction of PVNGS and is separate from the offsite sources used to operate the PVNGS Units. The apparent cause of the power outage was lightning strikes in the Buckeye area, causing the distribution lines to relay out. The Transmission Control Center dispatched a division crew to restore power manually at the Buckeye substation. Power was restored on February 15, 1993, at approximately 0450 MST.

On February 15, 1993, at approximately 0505 MST, the Meteorological Tower was declared operable following power restoration and satisfactory completion of the CHANNEL CHECK in accordance with Surveillance Test 41ST-1ZZ16, and the NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT was terminated.

In accordance with EPIP-03, the NRC was notified on February 15, 1993, at approximately 0530 MST of the declaration and the subsequent termination of a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT.

Meteorological data is recorded and evaluated in accordance with Regulatory Guide 1.23 and provides the historical information contained in the Semiannual Radioactive Effluent Release Report pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50.36a(a)(2), and in accordance with Technical Specification 6.9.1.8. A review of historical data for the period August 23, 1992, through February 15, 1993, revealed that power was lost to the Meteorological Tower three times on August 24, 1992 (at approximately 0849 for approximately 1.5 minutes, at approximately 1316 for approximately 9 minutes, and at approximately 1334 for approximately 25 minutes), and again on January 9, 1993, for approximately 41 minutes (from approximately 1257 to 1338 MST). On both days, the daily CHANNEL CHECK required by Technical Specification 4.3.3.4 was successfully completed.

APS has evaluated the need for declaring a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT for meteorological instrumentation outages of short duration and for outages which are discovered upon review of historical data. APS will be submitting a change to the PVNGS Emergency Plan to the NRC which will clarify the conditions whereby a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT will be declared in the future. Until the change is implemented, APS will declare a NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT in accordance with EPIP-02 when a loss of assessment capability of all meteorological instrumentation is discovered by Unit Operations during the performance of daily surveillance testing or upon notification of an existing outage.