



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596-5368

April 5, 1993

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

Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 53999, Station 9082
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999

Attention: Mr. W. F. Conway
Executive Vice President, Nuclear

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF NRC INVESTIGATION NO. 5-92-003R


Enclosed for your information is the Synopsis of NRC Office of Investigations (OI) Report No. 5-92-003R. This investigation involved alleged inaccurate and incomplete information about emergency light failure rates provided by APS during a May 16, 1990 meeting with the NRC.

In Report No. 5-92-003R, dated January 30, 1993, OI concluded that APS officials provided inaccurate and incomplete information about emergency light failure rates, although this action was not determined to be intentional or deliberate.

We note that the fundamental safety significant concerns associated with emergency light performance involved poor documentation and trending of emergency light deficiencies and inadequate engineering, quality assurance, and management involvement and oversight of those activities. We also recognize that the Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty issued in October 1990 emphasized these concerns and that APS has taken extensive corrective actions to preclude recurrence of these problems. Nevertheless, in order to further emphasize the importance of providing complete and accurate information to the NRC, especially in response to specific NRC questions about equipment required by NRC regulation, we consider that a separate citation is warranted, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). Since the corrective actions which you have already taken in response to the October 1990 violations would prevent recurrence of this violation as well, no specific response to the enclosed Notice is required.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,


for John B. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:

1. OI Synopsis
2. Notice of Violation

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SYNOPSIS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region V, Regional Administrator, requested the Office of Investigations (OI) investigate the suspected providing of false information to the NRC staff by officials of the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) concerning the status of emergency lighting systems at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) during a May 16, 1990, meeting at Phoenix, Arizona.

NRC representatives present at the meeting recalled the APS, Manager, Nuclear Engineering provided a very low statistic for emergency lighting failure rates which did not correspond with data previously gathered by the NRC.

OI interviews of APS officials associated with the preparation of, presentation of and subsequent review of the data presented reflected the data was incorrectly gathered by inexperienced personnel.

OI has concluded that APS officials did not intentionally and deliberately provide false information to the NRC during the May 16, 1990 meeting.