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SUBJECT: Application for amends to licenses NPF-41,NPF-42 & NPF-43
modifying TS by removing schedular requirements for type A
test to be performed specifically at 40 + or - 10 month
intervals.

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WILLIAM F. CONWAY
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NUCLEAR

102-02748/WFC/RAB/RKR

December 2, 1993

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. STN 50-528/529/530
Proposed Amendment to Technical Specification
Section 3/4.3.6.1.2
File: 93-005-419.05; 93-056-026**

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, Arizona Public Service Company (APS) submits a proposed amendment to Facility Operating License Numbers NPF-41, NPF-42, and NPF-43 to modify the Technical Specifications (TS) for PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The proposed changes would modify TS 3/4.6.1.2 by removing the schedular requirements for a Type A (overall integrated containment leakage rate) test to be performed specifically at 40 ± 10 month intervals and replacing these requirements with a requirement to perform Type A testing in accordance with Appendix J to 10 CFR 50. The proposed amendment will provide the flexibility needed in scheduling Type A tests to coincide with 18-month fuel cycles. The proposed changes to the schedular requirements are consistent with the surveillance requirements for 10 CFR 50, Appendix J testing in NUREG-1432, "Standard TS Combustion Engineering Plants."

Provided in the enclosure to this letter are the following:

- A. Description of the Proposed Amendment Request
- B. Purpose of the Technical Specification
- C. Need for the Technical Specification Amendment
- D. Safety Analysis of the Proposed Technical Specification Amendment
- E. No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination
- F. Environmental Impact Consideration Determination
- G. Marked-up Technical Specification Pages

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Proposed Amendment to Technical Specification
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The Plant Review Board and Offsite Safety Review Committee have reviewed and approved the proposed amendment to TS 3/4.3.6.1.2. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1), a copy of this request is being forwarded to the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency.

The proposed amendment is a Cost Beneficial Licensing Action. The proposed amendment will eliminate one to two Type A tests per Unit during each 10-year service period. Type A tests add two to three days to each outage. It also costs approximately \$200,000 to perform a Type A test.

As previously discussed with the NRC staff, APS requests NRC approval of the proposed amendment by April 1994 so that Unit 1 would not be required to shut down to perform Type A testing. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard A. Bernier at (602) 393-5882.

Sincerely,




WFC/RAB/RKR/rv

Enclosure

cc: B. H. Faulkenberry
J. A. Sloan
A. V. Godwin

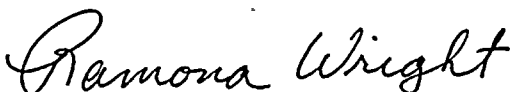
STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

I, W. F. Conway, represent that I am Executive Vice President - Nuclear, that the foregoing document has been signed by me on behalf of Arizona Public Service Company with full authority to do so, that I have read such document and know its contents, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made therein are true and correct.

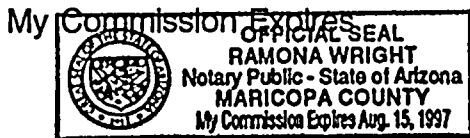


W. F. Conway

Sworn To Before Me This 2nd Day Of December, 1993.



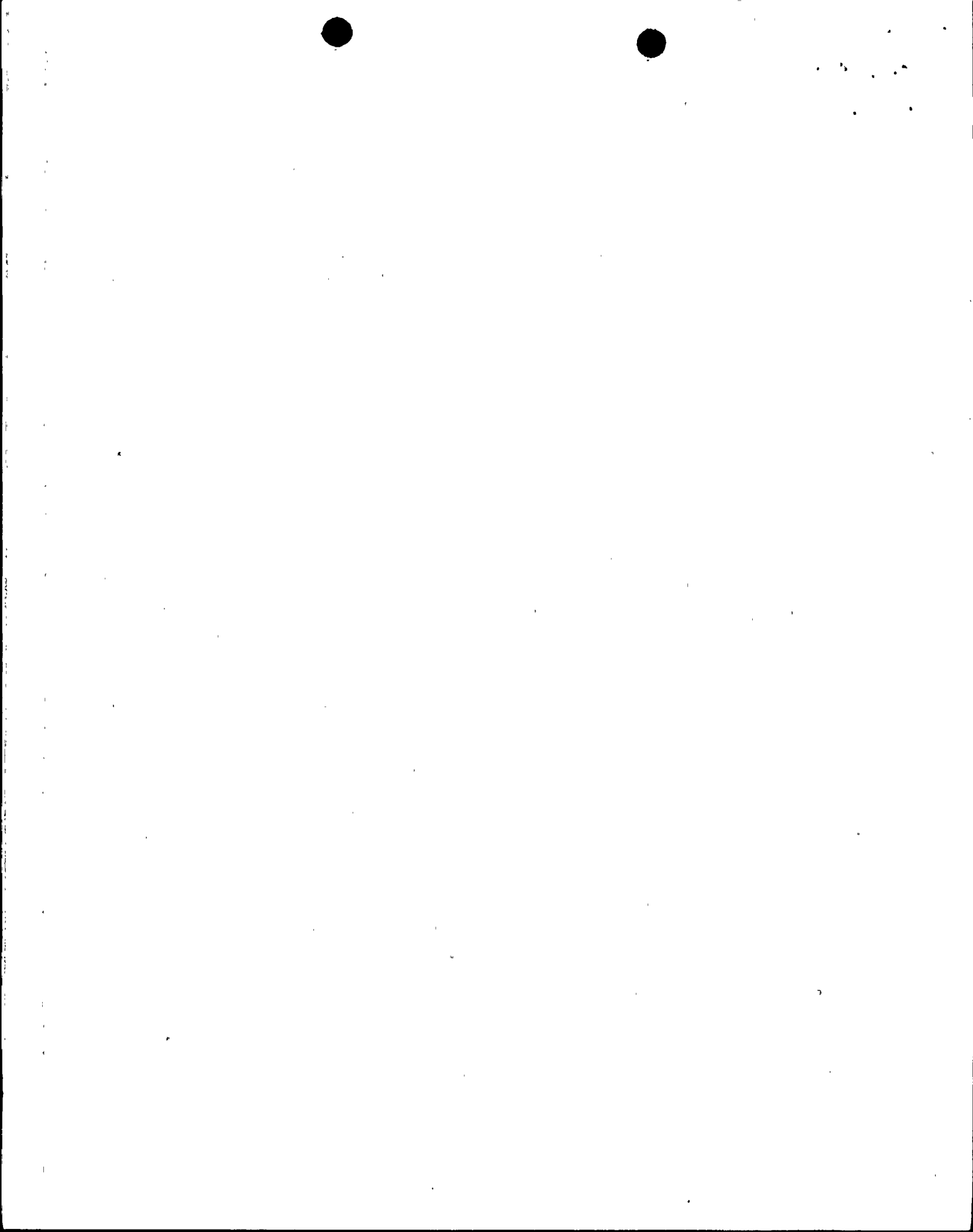
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ENCLOSURE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

SECTION 3/4.3.6.1.2



A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT REQUEST

The proposed amendment to Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.3.6.1.2 makes the following specific changes to the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) Units 1, 2, and 3 TS:

- * Revises Surveillance Requirement 4.6.1.2.a to remove the specific requirement that the Type A tests be performed at 40 ± 10 month intervals with the third test of each set conducted during the shutdown for the 10-year plant inservice inspection and replace it with the following:

"Type A (Overall Integrated Containment Leakage Rate) testing shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements specified in Appendix J to 10 CFR 50, as modified by approved exemptions."

- * Deletes Surveillance Requirements 4.6.1.2.b and 4.6.1.2.c. These Type A test requirements are also specified in Appendix J to 10 CFR 50. Therefore, it is not necessary to repeat these requirements in the TS.
- * Renumbers the remaining surveillance requirements for continuity. This is an administrative change. Consistent with the renumbering, the reference in Specification 4.6.1.1.c is revised from "Specification 4.6.1.2.d" to "Specification 4.6.1.2.b."

B. PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

The TS required schedule provides only a 20-month window for scheduling of Type A tests. This requirement is not appropriate for a facility like PVNGS which uses an 18-month fuel cycle. An 18-month fuel cycle does not provide sufficient flexibility for three tests within a 10-year service period when limited by the stipulation that the tests be performed at 40 ± 10 month schedules.

Experience at other units has demonstrated that the current TS test interval is too prescriptive. At the North Anna Power Station (which uses 18-month cycles) both units had to submit TS change requests to deviate from the TS specified Type A test schedule to allow the third test to coincide with the 10-year inservice inspection period. Virginia Electric and Power Company also submitted a similar amendment request on July 2, 1993. This was also recognized as part of the TS Improvement Program and as a result, NUREG-1432, "Standard TS Combustion Engineering Plants" only references Appendix J to 10 CFR 50 requirements for Type A tests.

To meet the current TS requirements of Type A testing every 30 to 50 months, a plant operating on an 18-month fuel cycle must perform a Type A test every other outage.



Following the first and second tests, at approximately 3 and 6 years, an extension must be requested to allow the third test to coincide with the 10-year inservice inspection outage. This request for extension has normally been granted since there is no safety significance and the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR 50 are satisfied, which was the original intention of the TS. Therefore, Arizona Public Service Company (APS) proposes to revise the TS for PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 to refer to Appendix J to 10 CFR 50, which requires that tests be conducted at approximately equal intervals during the 10-year service period with the third test being conducted during the 10-year inservice inspection outage. This would typically result in tests being conducted at intervals of approximately 4.5 years, 3 years, and 3 years during the 10-year period.

C. NEED FOR THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

The PVNGS TS currently requires a set of three Type A tests be performed specifically at 40 ± 10 month intervals during each 10-year service period, with the third test of each set performed during the shutdown for the 10-year plant inservice inspection. Appendix J to 10 CFR 50 requires that a Type A test of the containment be performed periodically. These tests are required to be scheduled as a set of three tests, to be performed at approximately equal intervals, during each 10-year service period, with the third set to coincide with the shutdown for the 10-year plant inservice inspection. While the PVNGS TS essentially duplicate the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR 50, the TS contain the additional requirement that Type A testing be performed at 40 ± 10 month intervals. This additional requirement is too restrictive for units with 18-month fuel cycles. Therefore, APS proposes to revise the TS for PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 to delete the prescriptive schedular requirement for Type A testing and instead reference that Type A testing will be performed in accordance with Appendix J to 10 CFR 50.

D. SAFETY ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

Completion of acceptable Type A testing is a requirement for containment operability. The proposed change would not change the general frequency nor the required number of Type A tests. The proposed change does not affect the acceptance criteria nor the method in which the testing is performed. Only the prescriptive schedular requirements are being changed to conform with the requirements of the regulation and provide more flexibility in the scheduling of the tests.

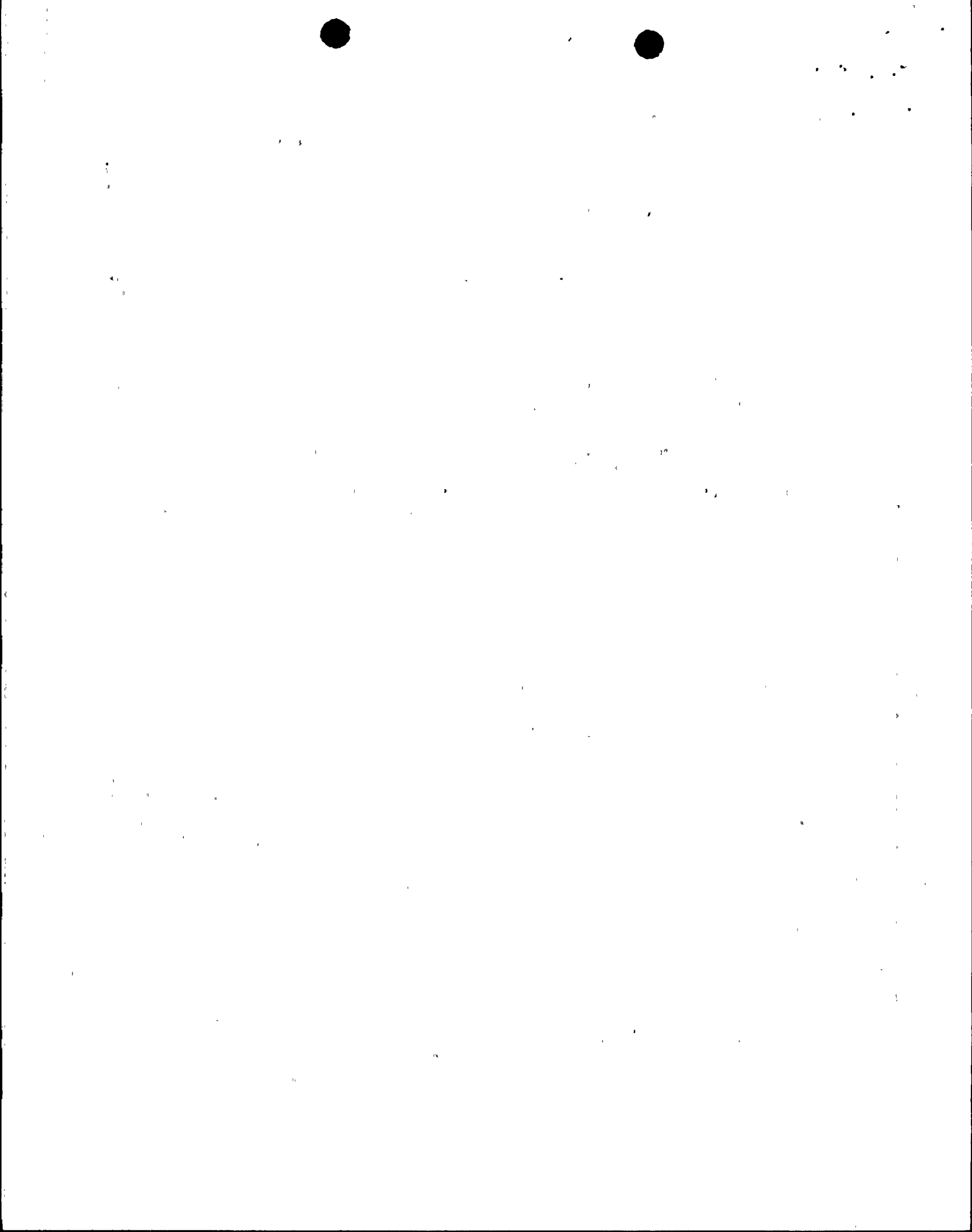
Based upon the following justification and the proposed TS changes, operation of PVNGS in accordance with Appendix J to 10 CFR 50, and without the specific test schedular requirements, would not involve an unreviewed safety question.

- (1) The proposed changes would not involve an increase in the probability or the consequences of an accident previously evaluated. The proposed change only allows flexibility in the scheduling of the three required Type A tests in the 10-year service period. The additional flexibility is needed for plants using 18-month fuel cycles to allow refueling outages and testing intervals to coincide. There is no change to the number of tests required, test methodology, or acceptance criteria.
- (2) The proposed changes would not create the possibility of a new or different type of accident from any accident previously evaluated. The proposed change to the test schedule only provides flexibility in meeting the same requirement for three tests in a 10-year period. The testing type and bases have not changed. Therefore, operation of the units with this more flexible test schedule will not result in an accident previously not analyzed in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). The proposed changes do not impact the design bases of the containment and do not modify the response of the containment during a design basis accident.
- (3) The proposed changes would not involve a reduction in the margin of safety. The proposed changes to the schedule only provides flexibility in meeting the same requirement for three tests in a 10-year period. These proposed changes do not affect or change any limiting conditions for operation (LCO), or any other surveillance requirements in the TS, and the basis for the surveillance requirement remains unchanged. The testing method, acceptance criteria, and bases are not changed. The TS continue to require testing that is consistent with the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR 50.

Based on the preceding evaluation, removing the specific schedule for Type A tests and making the other administrative changes to the TS will not adversely affect the safe operation of the units. Therefore, this proposed amendment for PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 does not result in an unreviewed safety question as defined by the criteria in 10 CFR 50.59

E. NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION

PVNGS TS 3/4.6.1.2 currently requires a set of three Type A tests be performed specifically at 40 ± 10 month intervals during each 10-year service period, with the third test of each set performed during shutdown for the 10-year plant inservice inspection. Appendix J to 10 CFR 50 requires that a Type A test of the containment be performed periodically. These tests are required to be scheduled as a set of three



tests, to be performed at approximately equal intervals, during each 10-year service period, with the third test of each set to coincide with the shutdown for the 10-year inservice inspection. While the PVNGS TS leakage rate testing requirements essentially duplicate the requirements in Appendix J to 10 CFR 50, the TS additionally require the Type A test be performed at 40 ± 10 month intervals. The TS requirement to conduct Type A tests at 40 ± 10 month intervals is too restrictive and inconsistent with 18-month fuel cycles. Therefore, APS proposes to delete the detailed surveillance requirement for Type A tests, and instead, reference performance of Type A testing in accordance with Appendix J to 10 CFR 50, which is the basis for the surveillance requirement.

The proposed changes to the TS do not involve modifications to any of the existing equipment or affect the operation of existing systems. The reactor containment system reliability and operation are unchanged, therefore, they remain in accordance with the descriptions found in the UFSAR.

The proposed TS changes do not affect or change any other limiting condition for operation or surveillance requirements in the TS and the basis for the specifications remains unchanged. Periodic Type A tests will continue to be performed during the service life of each unit as required by Appendix J to 10 CFR 50. These proposed changes do not change the number of tests to be performed, test methodology, or test acceptance criteria. In essence, the specific requirement for 40 ± 10 month test intervals is deleted.

The Commission has provided standards for determining whether a significant hazards consideration exists as stated in 10 CFR 50.92. A proposed amendment to an operating license for a facility involves a no significant hazards consideration if operation of the facility, in accordance with a proposed amendment, 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 amendment request, follows:

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

This amendment request does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated based on the safety analysis, because the proposed changes to the TS do not affect the assumptions, design parameters, or results of any UFSAR accident analysis. The proposed amendment does not add or modify any existing equipment. The proposed Type A testing schedule will still be consistent with Appendix J to 10 CFR 50. Therefore, the



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proposed TS changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

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

This amendment request does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously analyzed since the proposed TS changes do not involve modifications to any of the existing equipment or affect the operation or design basis of the containment. The proposed changes do not modify the response of the containment during a design basis accident. The proposed changes only remove the restrictive schedular requirements for conducting Type A testing from the TS and substitute the schedule specified in Appendix J to 10 CFR 50. Therefore, the proposed TS changes would not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

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

The margin of safety presently provided is not reduced by the proposed change in the schedular requirements for Type A tests. Although the changes allow more flexibility in scheduling Type A tests, the proposed amendment continues to ensure reactor containment system reliability by periodic testing. Since equipment reliability will be maintained, the proposed TS changes will not involve a significant reduction in margin of safety.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION

APS has determined that the proposed amendment involves no change in the amount or type of effluent that may be released offsite, and that there is no increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. As such, operation of PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 in accordance with the proposed amendments, does not involve an unreviewed environmental safety question.

G. MARKED-UP TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION PAGES

Units 1, 2, and 3; pages 3/4 6-1, 3/4 6-2 and 3/4 6-3

