

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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# SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 91 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-41.

## AMENDMENT NO. 79 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-51,

#### AND AMENDMENT NO. 62 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-74

### ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.

#### PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1, 2, AND 3

#### DOCKET\_NOS. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, AND STN 50-530

#### 1.0 <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

By letter dated November 2, 1994, the Arizona Public Service Company (APS or the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Appendix A to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, respectively). The Arizona Public Service Company submitted this request on behalf of itself, the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Southern California Edison Company, El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. and Southern California Public Power Authority. The proposed changes would delete the condenser vacuum exhaust release point reference on existing TS Figure 5.1-3 and combine it with the plant vent exhaust release point on the revised TS Figure 5.1-3. In addition to the figure change, TS Bases Section 3/4.3.3.6 is amended to reflect the removal of high-range radiation monitor RU-142 for the condenser air removal system effluent and the relocation of high-range plant vent effluent monitor/sampler RU-144 and high-range fuel building vent effluent monitor/sampler RU-146 from Table 3.3-13 (previously deleted) to the Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM). This relocation is permitted by Generic Letter 89-01.

#### 2.0 EVALUATION

Existing TS Figure 5.1-3 depicts separate release paths for the condenser vacuum and the plant vent exhaust; the revised figure depicts one combined release path. The existing plant effluent radiation monitors (RU-143 and RU-144) will then serve to monitor both the plant vent and the condenser air removal system effluent. High-range radiation monitor RU-142 for the condenser air removal system effluent is being removed as it is similar to the existing high-range plant effluent monitor. The existing plant effluent radiation monitors consist of a low- (or normal-) range unit RU-143 and, as stated above, a high-range unit RU-144. Low-range monitor RU-141 for the condenser air removal system effluent) has been changed to an in-duct monitor.

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This is consistent with an overall philosophy of having monitors at the outlet of each contributing system that are capable of locating local sources of radiation, while providing for the necessary high-range monitoring where the effluents are released. The combination of the condenser vacuum and plant vent exhaust release points was accomplished under 10 CFR 50.59.

The proposed amendment would delete the condensate vacuum exhaust release point reference on existing TS Figure 5.1-3 and combine it with the plant vent exhaust release point on the revised TS Figure 5.1-3.

Combining the condenser vacuum and plant vent exhaust into a single release path does not involve a significant reduction in safety. The change involves the removal of one high-range monitor in the condenser vent; however, its function is provided by the high-range monitor in the plant vent. The ranges of the monitors are the same. The existing plant effluent radiation monitors will serve to monitor both the plant and condenser air removal system effluent. The normal-range monitors for the plant vent effluent and the condenser air removal system effluent have the ability to adequately detect radiation in these effluents over 5 decades. These monitors, which are not changed by these amendments, have the ability to detect the anticipated radiation releases via these effluents. Therefore, the proposed change is acceptable.

In addition to the figure change, Bases Section 3/4.3.3.6 is also changed to reflect the removal of radiation monitor RU-142 (high-range monitor in the condenser vent) and the relocation of RU-144 and RU-146 from Table 3.3-13 (table previously deleted by Amendment Nos. 62, 48, and 34, for Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively) to the ODCM. These changes are consistent with the revised plant design and correct an existing discrepancy and are, therefore, acceptable.

#### 3.0 <u>STATE\_CONSULTATION</u>

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Arizona State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

#### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (59 FR 65810). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or

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## 5.0 <u>CONCLUSION</u>

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: C. Thomas

Date: May 25, 1995

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