



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

April 26, 1999

Mr. James M. Levine  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear  
Arizona Public Service Company  
Post Office Box 53999  
Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - APPROVAL OF  
INSERVICE INSPECTION RELIEF REQUESTS 11 AND 12 (TAC NOS.  
MA5248, MA5249 AND MA5250)

Dear Mr. Levine:

By letters dated April 20 and 21, 1999, Arizona Public Service Company (APS) submitted Relief Requests Nos. 11 and 12 for the second 10-year inservice inspection interval for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. APS requested the use of alternatives to certain 10 CFR 50.55a(g) requirements pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i). The NRC staff has reviewed the requests and our evaluation is provided in the enclosed safety evaluation.

Relief Request No. 11 requests approval to use an alternative to IWA-5242(a) of Section XI to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code, which requires that insulation be removed from pressure-retaining bolted connections during the pressure test of systems bolated for reactivity control. The proposed alternative would allow insulation removal and visual examination of the bolted connections to be done earlier in the refueling outage while the system is depressurized.

Relief Request No. 12 requests approval to use an alternative to IWA-5250(a) which requires that bolting be removed and visually inspected when leakage is detected at a bolted connection during the conduct of the system pressure test. The proposed alternative would allow an evaluation of other factors concerning the leakage joint as a possible alternative to disassembly and visual examination of the bolting.

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The staff finds that the proposed alternatives provide an acceptable level of quality and safety and hereby authorizes the proposed alternatives in Relief Requests Nos. 11 and 12 pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the second 10-year inservice inspection interval.

If you have any questions, please contact Mel Fields at (301) 415-3062.

Sincerely,

Steve Dembek, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. James M. Levine

- 3 -

cc w/encl:

Mr. Steve Olea  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Douglas Kent Porter  
Senior Counsel  
Southern California Edison Company  
Law Department, Generation Resources  
P.O. Box 800  
Rosemead, California 91770

Senior Resident Inspector  
USNRC  
P. O. Box 40  
Buckeye, Arizona 85326

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Harris Tower & Pavillion  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064

Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
ATTN: Chairman  
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Mr. Aubrey V. Godwin, Director  
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency  
4814 South 40 Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

Ms. Angela K. Krainik, Manager  
Nuclear Licensing  
Arizona Public Service Company  
P.O. Box 52034  
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034

Mr. John C. Home, Vice President  
Power Generation  
El Paso Electric Company  
P.O. Box 982  
El Paso, Texas 79960

Mr. David Summers  
Public Service Company of New Mexico  
414 Silver SW, #1206  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Mr. Jarlath Curran  
Southern California Edison Company  
5000 Pacific Coast Hwy Bldg DIN  
San Clemente, California 92672

Mr. Robert Henry  
Salt River Project  
6504 East Thomas Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Terry Bassham, Esq.  
General Counsel  
El Paso Electric Company  
123 W. Mills  
El Paso, Texas 79901

Mr. John Schumann  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power  
Southern California Public Power Authority  
P.O. Box 51111, Room 1255-C  
Los Angeles, California 90051

