

## UNITED STATES

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:

9904280202

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 borated 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.

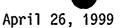
Relief Request No. 12 requests approval to use an alternative to IWA-5250(a) which requires that bolting be removed and visually inspected when leakage is detected at a bolted connection during the conduct of the system pressure test. The proposed alternative would allow an evaluation of other factors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

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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

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