

APS

NEWS RELEASE

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APS ANNOUNCES RESULTS

OF PALO VERDE COST AND SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

PHOENIX -- Arizona Public Service Co. today (July 13) announced the results of an in-depth analysis it has conducted of the construction costs and schedule for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station under construction about 55 miles west of downtown Phoenix.

Thomas G. Woods, Jr., APS executive vice president and chief operating officer, reported that construction costs are expected to remain at the currently projected \$4.3 billion for completion of all three Palo Verde units.

"As we announced previously," Woods said, "we anticipate that because of the impact of scheduling problems with key equipment, augmentation of the plant's emergency response system as a result of lessons learned from the Three Mile Island accident, and because of the complexity of the

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transition from the construction phase to the start-up phase for Unit 1, there will be delays in completion of both Units 1 and 2. We now anticipate that Unit 1 will load fuel in August 1983 and Unit 2's fuel loading will be in August 1984. Both units are expected to generate electricity in the same years that fuel is loaded."

"Start-up activities for Unit 1 continue at an accelerated pace," he said. "We have just completed pressure testing the primary and secondary cooling systems for the Unit 1 reactor. These hydrostatic tests are milestones in the start-up of the units. In the test of the primary cooling system, pipes are filled with water and pressurized to 125 percent of the system's normal operating pressure in a cold mode."

Woods said that start-up procedures call for a series of tests to be conducted on each system and sub-system in the plant prior to fuel loading. "These tests insure that each piece of equipment is functioning properly before we put the power plant in operation," he said.