

335

RELATED CORRESPONDENCE



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

OFF of SECY
(Apr 4, 1985)

April 3, 1985

Robert M. Lazo, Esq., Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. Richard F. Cole
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. Dixon Callihan
Administrative Judge
Union Carbide Corporation
P.O. Box Y
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

In the Matter of
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.
(Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3)
Docket Nos. STN 50-529 and STN 50-530 *OL*

Dear Administrative Judges:

For your information, enclosed are copies of documents regarding a proposed amendment to licensee's Special Nuclear Material License for to Palo Verde Unit 2 authorize an increase in the quantity of total plutonium possessed from 3g to 6g.

Sincerely,

Lee Scott Dewey
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure: As Stated

cc: w/enclosure
Service List

8504080247 850403
PDR ADOCK 05000529
G PDR

DS07

DISTRIBUTION
Docket No. 70-2984
50-529

MAR 19 1985

NMSS R/F
FCUP R/F
VLTharpe
NKetzlach
LCobb, IE
Region V
PDR
DWeiss, LFMB
GBennington, SGM
WBrown, SGFF
JHO
ELicitra, NRR
LDewey, ELD
RZimmerman, Sr. Res. Insp.
MMoriarity, ECLA
KKodali

FCUP:NK
70-2984
SNM-1922, Amendment No. 3

Arizona Public Service Company
ATTN: Mr. E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Vice President, Nuclear Production
ANPP Project Director
P.O. Box 21666
Phoenix, AZ 85036

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your January 28, 1985 application and pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 70, Condition 8.c. of Special Nuclear Material License No. SNM-1922 is hereby amended to authorize an increase in the quantity of total plutonium possessed from 3 g to 6 g and the number of Pu-Be sources from 2 to 4 with up to 20 curies/source.

All other conditions of the license shall remain the same.

Enclosed is a copy of our Safety Evaluation Report in support of this amendment.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:
W. T. Crow

W. T. Crow, Acting Chief
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety, NMSS

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation Report

OFC: FCUP <i>NK</i>	:FCUF	:FCUF	:	:	:	:
NAME: NKetzlach/as: VTharpe: WTCrow	:	:	:	:	:	:
DATE: 3/19/85	: 3/19/85	: 3/19/85	:	:	:	:

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MAR 19 1985

DOCKET NO.: 70-2984

LICENSEE: Arizona Public Service Company
Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement
and Power District
Southern California Edison Company
El Paso Electric Company
Public Service Company of New Mexico
Southern California Public Power Authority

FACILITY Palo Verde, Unit 2
Phoenix, Arizona

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LICENSE APPLICATION DATED OCTOBER 22, 1984
AND ITS REVISION DATED JANUARY 28, 1985

Background

By application dated October 22, 1984, Arizona Public Service Company (APS) on behalf of itself and the other applicants listed above requested an amendment authorizing an increase in the possession limit for Pu-Be neutron startup sources at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) Unit 1, from two to six sources. PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3, each require two neutron startup sources. Arizona Public Service (APS) has been informed by the source supplier that the latter's radioisotope operations are being closed and consequently APS should move the sources for Units 2 and 3 from the supplier's facility to another location. At the time, APS determined the most advantageous move would be to store all the neutron startup sources at Unit 1. The staff had several questions regarding the neutron startup source storage container being designed and personnel exposure levels in the storage and handling of the sources. Since Unit 1 received its operating license on December 31, 1984, APS submitted a revised application, dated January 28, 1985, requesting the possession and storage of the startup sources for Units 2 and 3 (four sources total) at Unit 2. The application for a "Storage Only" license for Unit 3 has not yet been submitted to the NRC.

Discussion

A. Radiation and Nuclear Criticality Safety

In accordance with approved PVNGS radiation protection measures, the two neutron startup sources presently authorized for PVNGS, Unit 2, are stored in a shielded shipping container in a fenced and locked controlled restricted area. Unpacking and handling of these sources are also controlled by radiation protection measures under the direction of the Radiation Protection Supervisor. It is planned to store the four startup sources

MAR 19 1985

for both Units 2 and 3 in a newly designed and built shielded storage cage. Personnel exposures will be controlled under the approved radiation protection program now in effect. The procedures include the receipt of radioactive material, personnel monitoring, establishing and posting controlled areas, operation of portable survey instruments, and issuing radiation work permits. Therefore, the radiation protection of plant personnel and the public is assured.

Since the total Pu content of all four sources is only 4.60 g, there is no possibility of a criticality accident under any condition. Since 3 g contained U-235 were previously authorized for 2 sources, it is recommended 6 g contained U-235 be authorized for the 4 sources.

B. Environmental Protection

There is no requested change to the environmental protection requirements of the facilities. None are required since the additional sources are stored within a shielded container and the limited time outside the shielded container, as well as the minimum distance of the sources from personnel, are established and controlled by radiation safety personnel.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for this proposed action.

General

The revised amendment application dated January 28, 1985, was discussed with Mr. E. Licitra, NRR Project Manager, and with Mr. Roy Zimmerman, Senior Resident Inspector, PVNGS, Units 1, 2, and 3, on March 19, 1985. Neither foresaw a safety or environmental problem with the requested authorization.

Conclusion

Issuance of the amendment authorizing an increase in the number of neutron startup sources is recommended.

Original Signed By:
N. Ketzlach

Norman Ketzlach
Uranium Process Licensing Section
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety, NMSS

Original Signed By:
W. T. Crow

Approved by:

W. T. Crow, Section Leader

OFC: FCUP	:FCUP	:FCUF	:	:	:	:
NAME: NKetzlach/as:VTharpe:WTCrow	:	:	:	:	:	:
DATE: 3/19/85	: 3/19/85	: 3/14/85	:	:	:	:

MAR 19 1985

FCUP:NK
70-2984

DOCKET NO.: 70-2984
APPLICANT: Arizona Public Service Company
FACILITY: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Unit 2
SUBJECT: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR AMENDMENT REQUEST DATED
JANUARY 28, 1985

By letter dated January 28, 1985, the Arizona Public Service Company, on behalf of itself and its partners, requested a license amendment to increase the number of neutron startup sources (plutonium-beryllium) from two to four (4.60 g total Pu). The startup sources will be stored in a shielded storage cask at PVNGS, Unit 2. The present license permits the storage and handling of two Pu-Be sources. The four sources requested are for use at the PVNGS, Units 2 and 3. The same radiation protection measures will be employed for the storage and handling of the four sources as were employed for the two sources. Therefore, the staff has concluded that the following conditions have been met:

1. There is no significant change in the type or significant increase in the amount of any effluents that may be released offsite,
2. There is no significant increase in the individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure,
3. There is no significant construction impact, and
4. There is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents.

Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is warranted for this proposed action.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

W. T. Crow

W. T. Crow, Acting Chief
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety, NMSS

OFC: FCUP	:FCUP	:FCUF	:FCUF	:	:
NAME:KKodali/as	:NKetzlach:	VTharpe:	WTCrow	:	:
DATE:3/19/85	:3/19/85:	3/19/85	:3/19/85	:	: