



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596-5360

SEP 24 1992

Docket Nos. 50-528, 50-529, and 50-530
License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51 and NPF-74

Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 53999, Station 9012
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999

Attention: Mr. W. F. Conway
Executive Vice President, Nuclear

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-528/529/530/92-27

This refers to the inspection conducted by J. Ringwald, J. Sloan, L. Tran, and B. Olson of this office, on July 19 through August 24, 1992. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Palo Verde facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, one of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements. This apparent violation involved a radiation protection technician not properly setting an alarming dosimeter alarm setpoint and is similar to a violation cited in NRC Inspection Report 50-528/90-28 slightly over two years ago. These violations both resulted in an alarm setpoint significantly higher than the value specified in the Radiation Exposure Permit. In response to this violation, you should describe the actions you plan to take to assure lasting corrective actions. This violation is also of concern because it is one of several examples of personnel inattention to detail discussed in this report.

We are also concerned with the event in which a Salt River Project helicopter landed inside the switchyard area without appropriate coordination with NPS personnel. This event increased the risk of a loss of offsite power event and landing inside the switchyard did not appear necessary. Your corrective actions should assure that future helicopter landings will be coordinated and controlled.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future

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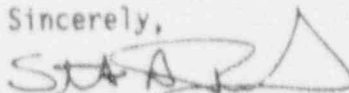
inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be glad to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



S. A. Richards, Acting Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Safety
and Projects

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report Numbers 50-528/92-27, 50-529/92-27, and 50-530/92-27

cc w/enclosures:

Mr. O. Mark DeMichele, APS
 Mr. James M. Levine, APS
 Mr. R. Stevens, APS
 Mr. S. Guthrie, APS
 Mr. E. C. Simpson, APS
 Mr. Robert W. Page, APS
 Mr. Thomas R. Bradish, APS
 Ms. Nancy C. Loftin, Esq., Corporate Secretary & Corporate Counsel, APS
 Mr. Curtis L. Hoskins, El Paso Electric Company
 Mr. Steve Olea, Chief Engineer, Arizona Corporation Commission
 Mr. Aubrey Godwin, Director, Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA)
 Chairman, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
 Mr. Bradley W. Jones, Esq., Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld
 Mr. Jack R. Newman, Esq., Newman & Holtzinger P. C.
 Mr. Roy P. Lessey, Jr., Esq., Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld
 Mr. James A. Beoletto, Esq., Southern California Edison Company
 Charles B. Brinkman, Combustion Engineering, Inc.

bcc w/enclosures:

bcc w/o enclosures:

Docket file

LFMB

J. Martin

M. Smith

B. Faulkenberry

G. Cook

Resident Inspector (4)

Project Inspector

Chief, Inspection and Licensing Program Branch, NRR (see paragraph 10)

JSloan
JSloan
9/23/92

JRingwald
JRingwald
9/23/92

LTran
LTran
9/23/92

HWong
HWong
9/23/92

Bobson BJS
9/23/92

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SRichards
9/24/92

JHesse
9/23/92

RHuey
9/21/92

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Notice of Violation Only