



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

JUL 24 1985

Docket Nos.: 50-528
50-529
50-530

Ms. Virginia Ikeda
Seki & Jarvis
Suite 901, Murdock Plaza
10900 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Ms. Ikeda:

In your letter of June 20, 1985, you requested information regarding the history and current status of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The information you requested is provided below.

The application for operating licenses (OL) for Palo Verde Units 1, 2, and 3 was docketed in June 1980. The application was submitted by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) on behalf of itself, the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Southern California Edison Company, El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, and Southern California Public Power Authority. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will also become a co-owner after Palo Verde Unit 1 achieves commercial operation.

The three Palo Verde units are identical in design, and each unit is rated at 3800 megawatts thermal and 1304 megawatts electrical. The design incorporates the Combustion Engineering standard plant design (CESSAR System 80).

The NRC staff's safety evaluations of the Palo Verde OL application and the CESSAR System 80 design are documented in Safety Evaluation Reports, NUREG-0857 and NUREG-0852, respectively, and their supplements. The environmental review for Palo Verde is documented in the Final Environmental Statement, NUREG-0841. These reviews are applicable to all three Palo Verde units since they are identical.

The status of the Palo Verde units is as follows. Unit 1 received a low power license (5%) on December 31, 1984, achieved initial criticality on May 23, 1985, and received a full power license (100%) on June 1, 1985. Unit 1 is currently proceeding through the power ascension test program and APS expects that it will achieve 100% power by the end of this year.

Construction of Palo Verde Unit 2 is essentially complete and the unit is currently undergoing pre-operational testing. APS expects to complete this test program by the end of the year at which time it will be ready for a low power license and fuel loading. A Commission decision on a full power license is expected about two months later and APS expects to achieve 100% power during the second quarter of 1986.

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Palo Verde Unit 3 construction is over 95% complete and APS expects that preoperational testing will begin by the end of the year. APS expects to be ready for fuel loading on Unit 3 by the first quarter of 1987 and for 100% power by the third quarter of 1987.

Sincerely,

Emanuel A. Licitra, Project Manager
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing

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