



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 4, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Ebersole, Chairman
Palo Verde Nuclear Station Unit 2 Subcommittee

W. Kerr, Member
H. Lewis, Member

FROM: D. Houston, Staff Engineer *D. Houston*

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT FOR PALO VERDE, UNIT 2

Arizona Public Service has projected November 1, 1985 as a probable date for the low power license and fuel load at Palo Verde, Unit 2. This schedule was discussed in their letter of August 19, 1985 and was also presented in the NRR discussion of NTOL's with the Commission on September 3, 1985. A copy of the letter and the Staff's vugraphs are attached.

In the Committee's letter of December 15, 1981 regarding licensing of Palo Verde, Units 1, 2 and 3, the Committee requested, among other things, that a review of the startup experience on Unit 1 should be made prior to fuel loading on Unit 2 and the Committee kept informed.

Palo Verde, Unit 1 received a low power license on December 31, 1984, achieved initial criticality on May 23, 1985 and was issued a full power license on June 1, 1985. To date, Unit 1 has operated up to 50% of full power. The plant was shutdown from July 11 to August 27, 1985 to repair the main condenser, repack a leaking pump seal, modify the PASS and test snubbers. APS plans to achieve 100% power by mid-October and to declare the plant commercial by the end of November 1985. It is obvious that Unit 1 will have little, if any, full power operation prior to the anticipated fuel loading at Unit 2. Limited startup experience will be reviewed by NRR and Region V and they plan to issue a report to the Committee on the subject about October 1, 1985.

Future Subcommittee activity in regard to Palo Verde, Unit 2, should be discussed during the September 12-14, 1985 Committee meeting. At the NTOL Commission meeting, Commissioner Asselstine commented that the Commission would look forward to the Committee's update on this matter prior to the Commission vote for a full power license. On the current projected schedule for Unit 2, a briefing and review of startup

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experience on Unit 1 prior to fuel load of Unit 2 will be very limited and may not meet the intent of the Committee's request. A meeting later in November or early December may be more beneficial. If so, the Staff should be informed to delay their report until they can review the full power ascension program.

Attachment: As Stated

cc: R. F. Fraley
M. W. Libarkin
G. R. Quittschreiber



Arizona Nuclear Power Project

P.O. BOX 52034 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85072-2034

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. George W. Knighton, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

August 19, 1985
ANPP-33234-EEVB/WFQ

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 2
Schedule for Completion of Licensing Review for Palo Verde Unit 2
Docket No. STN 50-529
File: 85-056-026; G.1.01.10

Reference: Letter from T. Novak, NRC, to E. E. Van Brunt, APS, dated
July 30, 1985. Subject: Schedule for Completion of Licensing
Review for Palo Verde Unit 2.

Dear Mr. Knighton:

We have received your referenced letter which made reference to an NRR telephone call to Mr. Karner of my staff. My response to the items discussed are as follows:

1. Palo Verde Unit 2 Fuel Load Date

APS has provided previous correspondence and telephone conversations to NRC regarding the Unit 2 schedule. Since late 1984, the APS Unit 2 completion schedule relayed to NRC has been the last quarter of 1985 which is October 1, 1985 to December 31, 1985. This 3 month window is used due to allowance for preoperational testing results.

Our current estimated schedule shows that PVNGS could be ready for receipt of an operating license and subsequent fuel load about November 1, 1985. This actual schedule is within the 3 month window and will, of course, fluctuate both backward and forward as unit 2 is actually completed. This fluctuation was experienced on Unit 1.

2. Technical Specifications for Palo Verde Unit 2

Attachment 1 provides our schedule for review and issuance of the Unit 2 Technical Specifications. The schedule has been reviewed by the NRR Technical Specification review and found to be timely and acceptable.

3. Remaining SER Issues

Attachment 2 provides our schedule for submittal of information on the remaining SER issues for Unit 2. We also expect to be submitting some miscellaneous recently approved FSAR changes prior to September 1, 1985. These changes have undergone a 10CFR 50.59 review for PVNGS Unit 1.

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4. Dual Startup Testing of Units 1 and 2

We have been informed by the referenced letter that dual startup testing of two units has caused difficulties in the past with other multi-unit plants. We are aware of the potential difficulties of having 2 units in testing and are evaluating the need for special precautions (i.e., administrative controls to ensure that any mode change on a unit will be done at a time the other unit is in a stable operating condition) which would be implemented in the case of dual testing. Currently dual testing for Palo Verde Units 1 and 2 is expected, although the overlap is very small.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.

E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Project Director

EEVB/WFQ/slh
Attachment

cc: A. C. Gehr
R. P. Zimmerman
E. A. Licitra
M. Ley

Attachment 1

8/19	NRC to Issue Proof/Review
8/30	Send Any Comments to NRR on Proof and Review Copy
9/5	NRC Contractor to Start Review
9/15	NRC Contractor to Finish Review
9/20 - 9/25	Start Resolution of any Open Issues
10/1	Final Tech Specs ready to be issued with O.L.

Attachment 2

SER Open Item

Current Scheduled Submittal Date

a) Guide Tube Wear Surveillance

Complete. ANPP-33200
August 12, 1985

b) Pressurized Thermal Shock

September 1, 1985

c) Appendix R Differences in Unit 1/
Unit 2 Cable Routing for Safe
Shutdown Equipment

September 1, 1985

d) Operator Experience for Unit 2
Shift Staffing

September 1, 1985

e) Preservice Inspection Program

Complete

FSAR Change Submittals

All presently identified changes to
be submitted by September 1, 1985

Confirmatory Item

D/G and Essential Cooling Water
Systems Inspection (Spray Pond Issue)

September 1, 1985

PALO VERDE UNIT 2 SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

1. SCHEDULE

CONSTRUCTION IS OVER 99% COMPLETE. APPLICANT'S PROJECTED FUEL LOAD DATE IS NOVEMBER 1985.

2. FSAR REVIEW

NO MAJOR ISSUES OUTSTANDING SINCE UNIT 2 IS IDENTICAL TO UNIT 1 WHICH RECEIVED A FULL POWER LICENSE ON JUNE 1, 1985.

3. INSPECTIONS

NORMAL INSPECTION OF CONSTRUCTION, TRAINING AND SYSTEM TURNSOVERS IS CONTINUING.

4. HEARINGS

NO HEARINGS ARE REQUIRED. ON JULY 22, 1985, THE BOARD DISMISSED THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE BASIS OF A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

5. ALLEGATIONS

NINE ALLEGATIONS UNDER REVIEW.

6. OI

SIX ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS.

PALO VERDE UNIT 2 SIGNIFICANT ISSUES (CONT'D)

7. OTHER

UNIT 1 IS STILL CONDUCTING START-UP TESTING. THIS TEST PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER 1985.

THE APPLICANT WILL SUBMIT, BY EARLY SEPTEMBER, 1985, A PROGRAM DESCRIBING HOW UNIT 2 WILL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT OF SHIFT HOT OPERATING EXPERIENCE. UNIT 1 HAS RELEASED ITS SHIFT ADVISORS.

UNIT 2 HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED MISCHIEVOUS ACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION.