

From: Lingam, Siva
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:29 AM
To: matthew.cox@aps.com
Cc: Dixon-Herrity, Jennifer; Colaccino, Joseph; Wittick, Brian; Ma, John; Hernandez, Raul; carl.stephenson@aps.com
Subject: Palo Verde 1, 2, and 3 - Acceptance Review of RR-67, Request for Alternative Frequency to Containment Unbonded Post-Tensioning System Inservice Inspection (EPID L-2021-LLR-0050)

By letter dated July 29, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21210A300), Arizona Public Service Company (APS, the licensee) submitted a relief request (RR-67) to extend the post-tensioning system examination and testing interval from 10 years to 20 years for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (Palo Verde), Units 1, and 3 (not for Unit 2, as clarified by the licensee on August 12, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21228A104)). APS also proposed an alternative for Palo Verde, Units 1, 2, and 3 to limit the scope of tendons required to be de-tensioned for wire removal and examination, elongation measurement, and to eliminate the requirement of American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Subsection IWL-2523.2(b) to perform tendon wire tension testing. The proposed alternatives are requested for the third and subsequent fourth intervals.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review for the RR-67. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed RR-67 in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 160 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review approximately by June 30, 2022, or earlier. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager. These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, or unanticipated addition of scope to the review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1564.

Siva P. Lingam
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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