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Palo Verde Nuclear  
Generating Station

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DOCKETED  
USNRC

102-04370-GRO/SAB /RJR  
November 9, 1999

ADJ...

Secretary  
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, Mail Stop O16C1  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET NUMBER  
PETITION RULE PRM 51-7  
(64FR48117)

Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)  
Units 1, 2, and 3  
Docket Nos. STN 50-528/529/530  
Comments on the Nuclear Energy Institute Petition for Rule Making,  
Docket No. PRM-51-7 (64 FR 48117)**

In the September 2, 1999 Federal Register (64 FR 48117), the NRC published for public comment a petition for rule making from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). This petition seeks to eliminate the requirement to assess Severe Accident Mitigation Alternatives (SAMA) as part of the environmental review for license renewal.

The NEI petition recognizes that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the NRC to evaluate impacts directly or indirectly related to license renewal. Arizona Public Service (APS) agrees with the NEI position that the evaluation is bounded by the first principle of license renewal, which is that the current licensing basis is adequate and will be maintained in the renewal period. APS also agrees with NEI position that impacts associated with the current license are not subject to evaluation under license renewal unless the impact can be shown to be potentially greater in the renewal term.

Since no such demonstration is made for severe accidents and, therefore, cannot be demonstrated for SAMA, APS supports the NEI position to eliminate the requirement to assess SAMA as part of the environmental review for license renewal. APS also supports the comments submitted by the NEI on the petition for rule making and requests the Commission approve the NEI petition.

No Commitments are being made to the NRC by this letter.

Please contact Mr. Scott Bauer at (623) 393-5978 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

PDR PRM 51-7

DS10

GRO/SAB/RJR/kg

cc: E. W. Merschhoff  
M. B. Fields  
J. H. Moorman  
D. J. Modeen (NEI)