

March 14, 2001

Mr. Gregg R. Overbeck
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
P. O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 -
EXTENSION REQUEST FOR SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL BALANCE
REPORTS

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

By letter dated October 13, 2000, you requested approval to delay submitting the special nuclear material (SNM) balance reports required by 10 CFR 70.53(a)(1) and 10 CFR 74.13(a)(1) for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. These regulations require licensees to compile such reports as of March 31 and September 30, of each year, and to submit these reports within 30 days of these dates. However, the regulation in 10 CFR 74.13(a)(1) contains the provision that "[t]he Commission may permit a licensee to submit the reports at other times when good cause is shown."

In your letter, you stated that the SNM balance reports for the Palo Verde units are required to be submitted during the period when the refueling outages for the Palo Verde units usually occurs. You requested that the delay in submitting the reports for March 31 and September of this year be delayed by 30 days (i.e., submit the reports 60 days after the March 31 and September 30 dates in the regulations) because there are refueling outages in the March-April and September-October periods of each year, and the Nuclear Fuel Management personnel who compile these reports are usually also involved in the refueling outages.

In the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) letter of October 27, 2000, the NRC staff approved your specific request for a delay of the submittal of the September 30, 2000, report until December 15, 2000, and stated that the NRC staff would address your generic request for an additional 30 days to submit the report at a later date. This letter is to address your generic request.

The NRC staff has reviewed your generic request for the year 2001 and concludes that good cause has been shown for delaying, by an additional 30 days, the submittal of the SNM balance reports for March 31 and September 30, 2001, which are due on April 30 and October 30, 2001, respectively. Therefore, the NRC staff finds acceptable the request to delay until (1) May 30, 2001, the submittal of the report due April 30, 2001, and (2) November 29, 2001, the submittal of the report due October 30, 2001. Currently, there is an effort to revise the reporting requirements in 10 CFR 70.53(a)(1) and 10 CFR 74.13(a)(1) to annually, and the SNM balance reporting requirement in the regulations may be changed for 2002 and beyond.

G. Overbeck

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March 14, 2001

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at 301-415-1307, or through the internet at jnd@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack N. Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: STN 50-528, STN 50-529,
and STN 50-530

cc: See next page

G. Overbeck

-2-

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Palo Verde Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

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