

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

January 14, 2002

SUBJECT: SITE-SPECIFIC WORKSHEETS FOR USE IN THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION'S SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS - PALO VERDE
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NO. MA6544)

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

Enclosed please find the Risk-Informed Inspection Notebook which incorporates the updated Significance Determination Process (SDP) Phase 2 Worksheets that inspectors will be using to characterize and risk-inform inspection findings. This document is one of the key implementation tools of the reactor safety SDP in the reactor oversight process.

The 1999 Pilot Plant review effort clearly indicated that significant site-specific design and risk information was not captured in the Phase 2 worksheets forwarded to you last spring. Subsequently a site visit was conducted by the NRC to verify and update plant equipment configuration data and to collect site-specific risk information from your staff. The enclosed document reflects the results of this visit.

The enclosed Phase 2 Worksheets have incorporated much of the information the NRC obtained during its site visits. The NRC staff encourages further licensee comments where it is identified that the Worksheets give inaccurately low significance determinations. Any comments should be provided to the Document Control Desk, with a copy to the Chief, Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch, Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The NRC staff will continue to assess SDP accuracy and update the document based on continuing experience.

While the enclosed Phase 2 Worksheets have been verified by the NRC staff to include the site specific data, the NRC staff will continue to assess its accuracy throughout implementation and update the document based on comments by its inspectors and your staff.

Sincerely,

/RA/

L. Raynard Wharton, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc: w/o encl.
See next page

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