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10 CFR 70.53(a)(1)
10 CFR 74.13(a)(1)

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102-04647-SAB/TNW/GAM
January 17, 2002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-37
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. STN 50-528/529/530
Request Extension of Submittal Date for Special Nuclear Material
Balance Reports**

Arizona Public Service Company (APS) is required by 10 CFR 70.53(a)(1) and 10 CFR 74.13(a)(1) to compile special nuclear material (SNM) balance reports as of March 31 and September 30 of each year, and to submit the reports within thirty days of those dates. 10 CFR 74.13(a)(1) also contains the provision that "[t]he Commission may permit a licensee to submit the reports at other times when good cause is shown."

By letter dated March 14, 2001, from NRC to APS, the NRC approved a request by APS to delay submitting SNM balance reports for calendar year 2001. In that letter, the NRC also stated that there is an effort to revise the SNM balance reporting requirements in 10 CFR 70.53(a)(1) and 10 CFR 74.13(a)(1) to annually.

A timetable for the Final Rule for revising the SNM balance reporting requirements was published in the Semiannual Regulatory Agenda in the December 3, 2001 *Federal Register* (66 FR 62730). The timetable showed that the final rule to revise the SNM reporting requirements is not scheduled to be published before December 2002.

APS requests approval to delay the submittal of each semiannual SNM balance report to 60 days after March 31 and September 30 of each year, instead of 30 days allowed by current regulations. This request is for each SNM balance report until the Final Rule revising the SNM balance reporting requirement becomes effective. The additional 30 day delay in SNM balance reporting is requested because the refueling outages for PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 usually occur in the March-April and September-October periods each year, and Nuclear Fuel Management personnel who compile the reports are usually also involved in the outages.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas N. Weber at (623) 393-5764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Weber", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SAB/TNW/GAM/kg

cc: E. W. Merschhoff
L. R. Wharton
J. H. Moorman