



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 15, 2015

Mr. Randall K. Edington
Executive Vice President Nuclear/
Chief Nuclear Officer
Mail Station 7602
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 –
ACCEPTANCE REVIEW RE: REQUEST FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF
CHANGE TO PVNGS OPERATIONS QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION (TAC NOS. MF6537, MF6538, AND MF6539)

Dear Mr. Edington:

By letter dated July 28, 2015, Arizona Public Service Company (APS) submitted a change to the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) Operations Quality Assurance Program Description (QAPD) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15212A718). The proposed change would revise the PVNGS QAPD to adopt a standardized QAPD based upon the guidance of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 11-04A, "Nuclear Generation Quality Assurance Program Description." The NEI 11-04A Quality Assurance Program template was reviewed and endorsed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in a letter dated May 9, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13023A051). APS submitted the letter based on a determination that the proposed change could be considered a reduction in the program's commitments pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 10.54(a).

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this change request pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(a)(4). 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 concludes 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 request in terms of regulatory requirements, 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. Should any further information be needed to support the NRC staff's technical review, you will be informed by separate correspondence.

R. Edington

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Finally, please note that the 60-day clock specified in 10 CFR 50.54(a)(4)(iv) is no longer applicable based on the NRC staff's acceptance of your application and the NRC's commencement of a detailed review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1233 or via e-mail at Margaret.Watford@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret M. Watford".

Margaret M. Watford, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

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R. Edington

- 2 -

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/RA Balwant Singal for/

Margaret M. Watford, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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and STN 50-530

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