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**Palo Verde
Nuclear Generating Station**
PO Box 52034
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034
Mail Station 7636

ATTN: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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
2015 Annual Environmental Operating Report**

Enclosed please find the 2015 Annual Environmental Operating Report for PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3. Arizona Public Service Company is submitting this report pursuant to Section 5.4.1 of Appendix B to the PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 Renewed Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, respectively.

No new commitments are being made to the NRC by this letter. Should you need further information regarding this submittal, please contact Michael DiLorenzo, Licensing Section Leader, at (623) 393-3495.

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Weber
Department Leader, Regulatory Affairs

TNW/MDD/TMJ/akf

Enclosure

cc: M. L. Dapas	NRC Region IV Regional Administrator
S. P. Lingam	NRC NRR Project Manager for PVNGS
M. M. Watford	NRC NRR Project Manager
C. A. Peabody	NRC Senior Resident Inspector for PVNGS

ENCLOSURE

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

Units 1, 2, and 3

2015 Annual Environmental Operating Report

I. INTRODUCTION

The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) is located in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 50 miles west of the Phoenix metropolitan area. The PVNGS site comprises approximately 4280 acres. Site elevations range from 890 feet above mean sea level at the southern boundary to 1030 feet above mean sea level at the northern boundary. The station consists of three pressurized water reactor electrical generating units. Units 1, 2, and 3 have a rated thermal power of 3990 MW.

PVNGS was issued low power operating licenses NPF-34, NPF-46 and NPF-65 for Units 1, 2, and 3 by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on December 31, 1984, December 9, 1985, and March 25, 1987, respectively. PVNGS was issued full power operating licenses NPF-41, NPF-51 and NPF-74 for Units 1, 2, and 3 on June 1, 1985, April 24, 1986, and November 25, 1987, respectively. These licenses were renewed on April 21, 2011.

Appendix B to these operating licenses is entitled the "Environmental Protection Plan (Non Radiological)". The Environmental Protection Plans (EPP) for each of the current operating licenses are identical.

The EPP purpose is to provide for protection of environmental values during construction and operation of the nuclear facility. The principal objectives of the EPP are as follows:

- (1) Verify that the station is operated in an environmentally acceptable manner, as established by the FES (Final Environmental Statement) and other NRC environmental impact assessments.
- (2) Coordinate NRC requirements and maintain consistency with other Federal, State and Local requirements for environmental protection.
- (3) Keep NRC informed of the environmental effects of facility construction and operation and actions taken to control those effects.

This Annual Environmental Operating Report is required by Section 5.4.1 of the EPP. This report describes the activities during calendar year 2015 related to the PVNGS EPP. For purposes of this report, references to the EPP are considered to be the EPP of NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SUMMARIES AND ANALYSIS

A. Cultural Resources

Section 4.2.1 of the EPP requires that an archaeological survey be performed when final alignment of the PVNGS-to-Saguaro transmission line is completed. As of the date of this report, plans for this transmission line have been indefinitely suspended. Therefore, there has been no activity with regard to this requirement of the EPP.

B. Terrestrial Ecology Monitoring

As communicated in a letter from William F. Conway, APS, to NRC, dated December 30, 1991, the salt deposition monitoring program was discontinued at the end of 1991.

III. PLANT DESIGN AND OPERATION CHANGES

Section 3.1 of the EPP allows changes in station design or operation or the performance of tests or experiments affecting the environment provided that such changes, tests, or experiments do not involve an unreviewed environmental question and do not involve a change to the EPP. Changes, tests, or experiments in which all measurable non-radiological effects are confined to the on-site areas previously disturbed during site preparation and plant construction or in which the environment is not affected are exempt from the evaluation and reporting requirements of Section 3.1.

Section 3.2 of the EPP also exempts changes, tests, or experiments, which are required to comply with other Federal, State, or local environmental regulations.

No design and operational changes were initiated in 2015 that required an evaluation to determine if they involved either an unreviewed environmental question or constituted a change in the EPP.

IV. EPP NON-COMPLIANCES

There were no instances of non-compliance with the EPP identified during 2015.

V. NON-ROUTINE REPORTS

There was one occurrence of an unusual or important environmental event that could have resulted in a significant environmental impact causally related to plant operation as described in Section 4.1 of the EPP.

1. On April 14, 2015, approximately 3,500 gallons of 8% sodium hydroxide was released. The quantity exceeded the Reportable Quantity of 1,000 pounds and was, therefore, reported to the National Response Center (Report #1113622) and applicable state and county agencies. An ENS notification (EN # 50984) was made to the NRC. The spill, which did not go offsite, was immediately isolated and subsequently remediated.

As described in Section 5.4.2 of the EPP for a non-routine event, if a report is required by other Federal, State or local agencies, then a 30-day report to the NRC is required. There were no such non-routine reports required by Section 5.4.2 of the EPP during 2015.