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STN-50-529 Palo Verde Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Arizona Publi 05000529
STN-50-530 Palo Verde Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Arizona Publi 05000530
AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
VAN BRUNT,E.E. Arizona Public Service Co.
RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
KNIGHTON,G. Licensing Branch 3

SUBJECT: Forwards applicant 840309 press release entitled, "Arizona Public Svc Announces New Schedule for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station," per 840217 ltr.Fuel loading for unit 2 scheduled for Last Quarter 1985.

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Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. BOX 21666 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85036

March 26, 1984
ANPP-29155 - WFQ/TFQ

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. George Knighton, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2 and 3
Docket Nos. STN-50-528/529/530
File: 84-056-026; G.1.01.10

Reference: Letter from E. E. Van Brunt, Jr., APS, to G. W. Knighton, NRC, (ANPP-28901 - ACR/WFQ), dated February 17, 1984.

Dear Mr. Knighton:

The referenced letter stated that Arizona Public Service Company (APS), expected to have new information regarding the PVNGS fuel loading schedule the week of March 5, 1984.

Attached for your information is a copy of the Press Release, entitled "APS Announces New Schedule for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station" issued by APS on Friday, March 9, 1984. I provided this information to Mr. Tom Novak and Mr. John Martin in separate calls on Friday, March 9, 1984.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Van Brunt

E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
APS Vice President, Nuclear
ANPP Project Director

EEVB/WFQ/sp
Attachment

cc: E. A. Licitra (w/a)
A. C. Gehr "

B001
1/1

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

I, Edwin E. Van Brunt, Jr., represent that I am Vice President, Nuclear, of Arizona Public Service Company, that the foregoing document has been signed by me on behalf of Arizona Public Service Company with full authority to do so, that I have read such document and know its contents, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made therein are true.

Edwin E. Van Brunt

Edwin E. Van Brunt, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 26th day of March, 1984.

Nora E. Meador

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Expires April 6, 1987

APS
NEWS RELEASE

For Release: March 9, 1984
Contact: APS Public Information
(602) 271-2316

Arizona Public Service Company • P. O. Box 21666 • Phoenix, Arizona 85036

APS ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEDULE FOR PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

PHOENIX -- Arizona Public Service Co. today (March 9) announced that fuel loading of the first unit at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station is now expected to take place in the first quarter of 1985. The utility said the 1270-Mw unit would be available for firm power scheduling by the end of 1985.

Ed Van Brunt, APS vice president - Nuclear, said the majority of the equipment and procedural problems at the plant had been resolved. "We want to ensure that Palo Verde is a safe operating plant and thus we are proceeding with caution during startup. As a result, the new schedule for all units has three to five months contingency time built into it and we are optimistic that we will beat the schedule.

"No definitive estimate of the cost impacts of the new schedule has been made," Van Brunt said. "An analysis is being performed now and that information will be available by the end of the month."

Addressing the various plant problems which contributed to

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the delay, Van Brunt said, "The most recent difficulty we experienced was with the low pressure safety injection (LPSI) pumps, which were on the project's critical path and thus had a definite impact on the project schedule. But we now believe the problem has been resolved."

Van Brunt explained that the LPSI pump problem was discovered in September when the pumps failed to start during a series of tests. Correction of the problem involved substitution of motors from another component in Unit 3. "We have completed a series of tests which involved starting the new motors 100 times," he said. "The pumps started each time without any malfunction. We are reasonably certain that, subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission review, this substitution of motors will solve the problem."

The time for completion of repairs to the reactor coolant system which was damaged during hot functional testing last summer also has affected the schedule. "The physical repairs were to have been completed by the end of 1983," Van Brunt said. "However, the mechanical work on these systems took longer than anticipated. An additional demonstration test, required to verify the repairs, is now scheduled for June.

"The series of actions we undertook in response to the NRC's Construction Assessment Team inspection of Palo Verde last September and our subsequent special audits have also had an impact," Van Brunt said.

"Due to the NRC inspection, more detailed documentation of Quality Control and Quality Assurance work is necessary. We suspended all safety-related startup testing for three months because we wanted to ensure that adequate procedures were in place before safety-related testing could be resumed. But again, the suspension of this important work until February had an impact on project schedule. In addition, we learned that the NRC was applying operating criteria to the construction completion activity during the inspection."

Fuel loading for Unit 2 is scheduled for the last quarter of 1985 and firm power operation for the second quarter of 1986, Van Brunt said. Unit 3's fuel load is scheduled for the first quarter of 1987 and firm power operation in the second quarter of 1987.

(PK) # # # (24-84)