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 BAILEY,J.N. Arizona Public Service Co. (formerly Arizona Nuclear Power
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SUBJECT: Provides status of actions requested re response to NRC
 Bulletin 89-003, "Potential Loss of Required Shutdown...."

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Ad 1

Arizona Public Service Company

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
P.O. BOX 52034 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85072-2034

JACK N. BAILEY
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR SAFETY AND LICENSING

161-02800-JNB/KLMC
January 26, 1990

Docket Nos. 50-528/529/530

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-37
Washington, D. C. 20555

Reference: NRC Bulletin No. 89-03: Potential Loss of Required
Shutdown Margin During Refueling Operations,
dated November 21, 1989.

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
Units 1, 2 and 3
Response to NRC Bulletin 89-03
File: 90-055-026, 90-056-026

As requested by NRC Bulletin 89-03, the Attachment to this letter provides the
status of the actions requested by the referenced NRC Bulletin.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, contact Mr. A. C. Rogers,
of my staff, at (602) 340-4041.

Sincerely,



WFC/ACR/KLMC

Attachment

cc: T. L. Chan (All w/Attachment)
S. R. Peterson
J. B. Martin
D. H. Coe

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161-02800-JNB/KLMC
January 26, 1990

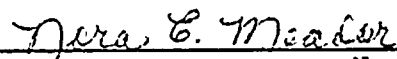
STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

I, J. N. Bailey, represent that I am Vice President - Nuclear Safety and Licensing, 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 and correct.



J. N. Bailey

Sworn To Before Me This 26 Day Of January, 1990.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires

My Commission Expires April 6, 1991

ATTACHMENT

APS Status of NRC Bulletin 89-03 Requested Actions

Requested Action 1:

Assure that any intermediate fuel assembly configuration (including control rods) intended to be used during refueling is identified and evaluated to maintain sufficient refueling boron concentration to result in a minimum shutdown margin of approximately 5%.

APS Status:

APS has evaluated the intermediate fuel storage locations, allowed by procedure, "Core Reloading". The procedurally allowable fuel storage locations will maintain a minimum shutdown margin of at least 5%, with the Technical Specification defined minimum boron concentration.

Requested Action 2:

Assure that fuel loading procedures only allow those intermediate fuel assembly configurations that do not violate the allowable shutdown margin and that these procedures are strictly adhered to.

APS Status:

APS's fuel loading procedure for Unit 1, "Core Reloading", has been revised to permit only final and intermediate loading locations which will not violate the allowable shutdown margin. The fuel loading procedures for Units 2 and 3 will be revised prior to each unit's next respective refueling outage.

APS has also strengthened the administrative controls which assure that the Material Balance Area Sheets, which control fuel transfers, are accurate and that fuel transfers are properly controlled in accordance with procedure. These actions were in response to recent experiences during the refueling of Unit 1.

ATTACHMENT
(Continued)

APS Status of NRC Bulletin 89-03 Requested Actions

Requested Action 3:

Assure that the staff responsible for refueling operations is trained in the procedures recommended in Item 2 above and understand the potential consequences of violating these procedures. This training should include the fundamental aspects of criticality control with higher enriched fuel assemblies.

APS Status:

The APS Reactor Engineering Department is responsible for specifying the fuel movement sequence and providing guidance to operations for intermediate storage of fuel assemblies during refueling operations. The Reactor Engineering staff has been trained with respect to this issue and its potential consequences.

