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 LEVINE, J.M. Arizona Public Service Co. (formerly Arizona Nuclear Power
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SUBJECT: Forwards Cycle 7 steam generator evaluation report which discusses latest Eddy Current Testing Exam results along w/methodologies used to determine appropriate cycle length.

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102-03849-JML/AKK/JRP
January 19, 1997

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Unit 2
Docket No. STN 50-529
Cycle 7 Steam Generator Evaluation Report**

This letter transmits the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) Steam Generator Evaluation Report for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) Unit 2. The enclosed report discusses the latest Eddy Current Testing (ECT) Examination results along with methodologies used to determine the appropriate cycle length.

In addition to the analyses and methodologies described in this report, APS has taken actions to provide defense - in - depth in order to prevent a challenge to nuclear safety. These actions include: preventive measures such as chemistry improvements, primary temperature reduction, N -16 monitoring improvements, comprehensive steam generator inspections, and conservative plugging criteria. An improved leak rate monitoring program and administrative limits on primary - to - secondary leakage provide additional confidence that an orderly shutdown would be able to be conducted prior to a tube rupture occurring.

APS has reviewed the consequences of previously analyzed accidents with respect to operation with existing steam generator tubing conditions. To further minimize the consequences of currently analyzed accidents, APS has taken measures to provide operations personnel with diagnostic tools and training. These measures include: event specific training of operations personnel with tube rupture events, improvements in leakage diagnostics via equipment upgrades, and protocol upgrades to the Emergency Operating Procedures. These actions permit faster identification and isolation of the affected steam generator should a steam generator tube rupture (STGR) event occur.

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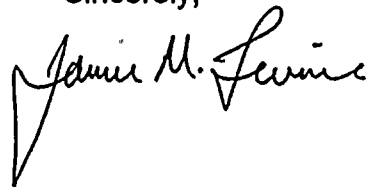
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Steam Generator Evaluation Report
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The analyses described in the enclosed report lead to the conclusion that PVNGS Unit 2 may operate at least 16.5 months until the next scheduled refueling outage with no significant risk to the health and safety of the public.

APS has requested a meeting with the staff in February 1997 to discuss the results of this steam generator evaluation and the basis for the aforementioned conclusion.

Should you have any questions, please contact Scott A. Bauer at (602) 393- 5978.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

JML/AKK/JRP/rh

Enclosure

cc: L. J. Callan
K. E. Perkins
J. W. Clifford
K. E. Johnston
I. Barnes

