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Generating Station

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Dear Sirs:

**Subject: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)
Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. STN 50-528/529/530
Annual Environmental Operating Report for 1996**

Enclosed is the PVNGS Annual Environmental Operating Report for 1996. This report covers the operation of PVNGS Units 1, 2, and 3 during 1996, and is being submitted pursuant to Section 5.4.1 of Appendix B to the Operating License.

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

Sincerely,

JML/AKK/JRP/rh

Enclosure

cc: E. W. Merschoff
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ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

**PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1996**

APRIL 1997

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 4050 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 with a nominal generating capacity of 1270 MWE per Unit.

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. The Unit 1 full power operating license NPF-41 was issued June 1, 1985. The Unit 2 full power operating license NPF-51 was issued April 24, 1986. The Unit 3 full Power operating license NPF-74 was issued November 25, 1987. Appendix B to these operating licenses is entitled the "Environmental Protection Plan (Non Radiological)". The Environmental Protection Plans (EPP) of each of the current operating licenses are identical.

The EPP 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 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 the year 1996 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.



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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 constitute an unreviewed environmental question and do not require 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.

There were no changes in station design or operation which required environmental evaluations during 1996.

IV. EPP NON-COMPLIANCES

There were no instances of non-compliance with the EPP identified during 1996.

V. NON-ROUTINE REPORTS

There were no non-routine reports required by Section 5.4.2 of the EPP submitted during 1996.

