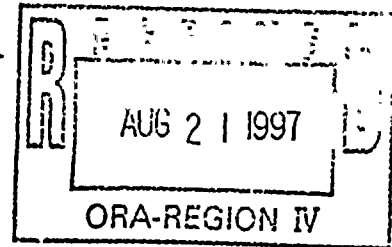




Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region IX Building 105
Presidio of San Francisco, California 94129

Mr. Ellis Merschoff
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064



Dear Mr. Merschoff:

We are enclosing the Final Evaluation Report for the May 21, 1997, Off-site Biennial Exercise for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS). The report addresses the evaluation of the plans and preparedness for the public in the Emergency Planning Zone. We identified 23 Areas Requiring Corrective Action (ARCA) as a result of the exercise. We will provide a copy of the report to the State of Arizona and we will monitor the correction of these ARCAs.

Based on the results of this exercise, the off-site radiological emergency response plans and preparedness for the State of Arizona and the jurisdictions site-specific to PVNGS can be implemented, and provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken off-site to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at PVNGS. Therefore, the Title 44 CFR, Part 350 approval of the off-site radiological emergency response plans and preparedness for the State of Arizona site-specific to PVNGS will remain in effect.

Please contact me directly at (415) 923-7100, or your staff may contact Ms. Sally Ziolkowski, Director of the Preparedness, Training, and Exercises Division, at (415) 923-7103, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Ray Williams
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. W. Ihor Husar, FEMA HQ
Mr. Thomas T. Martin, NRC HQ

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