



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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June 5, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: David A. Ward, ACRS Chairman
FROM: R. F. Fraley, Executive Director
SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

A question has been raised regarding the status of ACRS action on the Outstanding Issues identified in the ACRS report of December 15, 1981 regarding proposed operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Station.

In its December letter, the ACRS identifies four items in need of resolution and requests reports back to the Committee as prerequisites to the proposed operation of the plant at full power.

- The ACRS encouraged use of the Palo Verde installations surveillance staff as part of its technical support team but expressed its belief that the applicant should promptly analyze the skill requirements needed to support operations and make sure that the necessary capabilities will be available when needed. The Committee requested an update in about a year from the date of its report.
- The ACRS recommended that the NRC Staff and the Arizona Public Service Company give additional attention to the matter of shutdown heat removal for Palo Verde and develop a detailed evaluation and justification for the position judged to be acceptable. The Committee requested that it be kept informed regarding this matter.
- The Committee also requested that prior to fuel loading a report should be provided to the Committee describing significant construction deficiencies and their disposition, the effectiveness of the quality assurance program.
- And the results of the preoperational test program.

In its most recent report of May 13, 1985, the Committee reiterates its concern about the lack of ability of the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant to rapidly and directly depressurize by use of valves (e.g., no PORVs are installed in this plant) and its plans to continue review of this matter as a generic item in connection with USI A-45, Shutdown Decay Heat Removal Requirements.

Although the items regarding the applicant's organizational staffing, significant construction deficiencies, the effectiveness of the QA program, and the results of the preoperational test program are not approved specifically in the Committee's most recent letter, I believe they are considered resolved by the Committee based on the following:

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A Palo Verde Nuclear Plant report on technical support of the operating plant and a staff evaluation of this proposed arrangement were provided to the ACRS by memorandum from Thomas M. Novak dated January 24, 1983. The Staff concluded in its evaluation that, "the APS organizational structure for providing off-site technical support for operation of Palo Verde meets the applicable criteria for technical support which are specified in the Standard Review Plan." These reports were forwarded to the ACRS Subcommittee Chairman (then M. Bender). The subcommittee chairman agreed with the recommendation of the then project engineer that no ACRS action was recommended at the time. The matter was discussed briefly during the full Committee briefing during the 292nd meeting, August 9-11, 1984 and during the April 26, 1985 subcommittee meeting.

The current subcommittee chairman (J. C. Ebersole) has indicated that he considers the matter resolved and did not therefore refer to it specifically in the ACRS report dated May 13, 1985. Mr. Reed who attended the April subcommittee meeting has also indicated that he considers the issue resolved (Attachment 1).

Significant construction deficiencies and effectiveness of the QA program were included in the NRC Staff briefing during the 292nd meeting.

Concern regarding the results of the preoperational test program were addressed mainly to the damage done to the primary coolant system and the pumps themselves by the initial operation of the main coolant pumps. The causes and the fixes related to this problem were discussed at length during the 292nd ACRS meeting on August 10, 1984 (see Attachment 2).

In view of the apparent resolution of these items during the intervening period from the 260th ACRS meeting (December 1981) and the 301st ACRS meeting (May 1985), Mr. Ebersole did not take specific note of their status in the Committee's report of May 13, 1985.

In view of this situation, and my discussion with you, we do not plan further specific follow-up action regarding these issues in connection with the Palo Verde Plant. Additional discussion of Committee concerns will be scheduled during the 302nd meeting to discuss the proposed Committee letter on the decay heat removal system for the Palo Verde Plant which was assigned to Mr. Reed during the April meeting. This item will continue to be handled as unresolved until further action is taken by the Committee.

Attachments:

1. Memorandum from G. A. Reed, ACRS Member, to J. C. Ebersole, Chairman, Palo Verde Subcommittee, dated May 6, 1985, Subject: Reflection on Palo Verde Subcommittee Meeting of April 25, 1985 (pp. 1-3)
2. Minutes of the 292nd ACRS Meeting (pp. 4-9)
3. Agenda Items for Palo Verde Subcommittee Meeting April 27, 1985 - Phoenix, Az (pp. 10-12)

4. Memo from A. Wang, Staff Engineer, to J. Ebersole, Chairman, Palo Verde Nuclear Station Unit 1 Subcommittee attaching proposed meeting summary for the 4/26/85 Palo Verde Subcommittee Meeting (pp. 13-16)

cc, w/atts.:
ACRS Members
M. W. Libarkin
A. B. Wang

NOTE: Dave Ward, ACRS Chairman concurred orally on June 6, 1985
and Jesse Ebersole concurred on May 30, 1985 on this mem.