

March 4, 1988

Docket No. 50-528, 50-529
and 50-530

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File
NRC & Local PDRS
PDV Reading
MLicitra
JLee
GHolahan

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dennis Kirsch, Director
Division of Reactor Safety and Projects
Region V

FROM: Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF JCO FOR PALO VERDE UNIT 1, DATED FEBRUARY 25,
1988

This memorandum confirms the telephone discussions held on March 2, 1988 between your staff (W. Wagner, T. Polich and G. Fiorelli) and representatives of NRR (E. Licitra, L. Kopp and A. Masciantonio) regarding the subject JCO. During the discussion we agreed that, based on the information provided with the February 25, 1988 letter, continued operation of Palo Verde Unit 1 presents no undue risk to public health and safety.

We have also received the licensee's letter of March 2, 1988 which confirms the information provided by T. Polich during the call regarding the source of the ball bearing found in the control rod thimble.

original signed by

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: G. Holahan
G. Knighton
T. Marsh
W. Hodges
L. Kopp
A. Masciantonio
E. Licitra
R. Pate
S. Richards
W. Wagner
T. Polich

CONTACT:
M. Licitra, DRSP/NRR
492-1352

DFC :DRSP/PDV	:D/DRSP/PDV	:AD/DRSP	:D/DRSP	:	:	:
NAME :MLicitra	:GKnighton	:GHolahan	:DCrutchfield:	:	:	:
DATE :	:3/4/88	:	:	:	:	:

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

8803070037 880304
PDR ADOCK 05000528
P PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MEMORANDUM FOR: George Knighton, Director
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects III, IV, V
and Special Projects

FROM: M. Wayne Hodges, Chief
Reactor Systems Branch
Division of Engineering and Systems Technology

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION OF PALO VERDE UNIT 1 JUSTIFICATION
FOR CONTINUED OPERATION

The Reactor Systems Branch has evaluated the Justification for Continued Operation of Palo Verde Unit 1 in light of the recent inability of control element assembly (CEA) number 56 to drop during testing after the first refueling outage. The problem was determined to have occurred because of a ball bearing which became lodged in one of the fuel assembly guide tube posts. The Mechanical Engineering Branch has also assisted in the evaluation.

Two items of concern to the staff were the ability of the CEAs to scram and the possible cladding damage due to other ball bearings which may have entered the core. The first concern will be evaluated during the upcoming CEA drop tests before power operation. Any appreciable fuel cladding damage should be noticed during surveillance on the specific activity of the primary coolant required by Tech. Specs.

Therefore, based on the information and material presented in the attachment to the February 25, 1988 letter from E. E. Van Brunt, Jr. (Arizona Nuclear Power Project) to John B. Martin (NRC Region V), the staff agrees that the continued operation of Palo Verde Unit 1 presents no undue risk to the public health and safety and should be allowed.

M. Wayne Hodges, Chief
Reactor Systems Branch
Division of Engineering and Systems Technology

cc: A. Thadani
E. Licitra

CONTACT: L. Kopp
X20879



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V
1450 MARIA LANE, SUITE 210
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
March 2, 1988

FAX To:

T. Polich

Mr. E. E. Van Brunt, Jr.
Executive Vice President, Project Director
Arizona Nuclear Power Project
P. O. Box 52034
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034

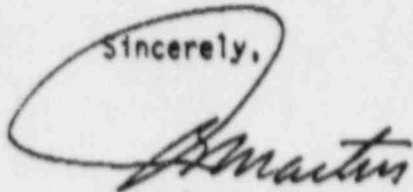
Dear Mr. Van Brunt, Jr.:

Subject: Irability of CEA 56 to Drop

This is to acknowledge your letter of February 25, 1988, concerning the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) of Palo Verde Unit 1. Region V and NRR have reviewed the letter and find that it provides an acceptable justification for Unit 1 operation.

On the basis of our review, the JCO and Region V's understanding of the plants readiness to operate, the NRC has no objection to continued operation of Palo Verde Unit 1.

Sincerely,


John B. Martin
Regional Administrator

CC:
T. E. Murley, NRR
J. M. Taylor, DEDORO
G. W. Knighton, NRR
E. A. Licitra, NRR
T. J. Polich, RV ✓