

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
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Management Office of Nuclear Material  
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[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, and  
STN 50-530]

**Arizona Public Service Company; Palo  
Verde Nuclear Generating Station,  
Units Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Environmental  
Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, issued to Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee), for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Environmental Assessment**

*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would modify the licenses for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3, to authorize incorporation in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) a revised large-break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) analysis. The revised LBLOCA analysis addresses a previously unanalyzed release path through the steam generators to the atmosphere.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter March 7, 1996.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would permit the UFSAR to be revised to address a previously unanalyzed release path through the steam generators to the atmosphere for the LBLOCA. This would incorporate this release path into the licensing basis of the facility.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there are no significant environmental considerations involved with the proposed action. The incorporation in the UFSAR for PVNGS Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the previously unanalyzed release path in the LBLOCA does not affect the design or operation of the plant, does not involve any modifications to the plant or any increase in the licensed power for the

plant, does not affect plant effluents, does not increase the probability of any postulated accident and will not create a new accident, and does not create any new or unreviewed environmental impacts that were not considered in the Final Environmental Statement (FES).

The FES did not consider in its evaluation of a LBLOCA, the leakage of containment atmosphere through the steam generators and to the public. Assessment of environmental impacts of the LBLOCA accounted for radiological releases from the containment and emergency core cooling system into the environment. For the revised analysis of the LBLOCA, atmospheric releases through the steam generators could be considered part of the leakage of containment atmosphere into the environment, although the location of release is different. The FES analyzed radiological releases from the steam generators to the environment in the evaluation of the steam generator tube rupture accident. Thus, the FES evaluated releases to the environment from steam generators, but this release pathway was not included in the LBLOCA analysis. The revised LBLOCA analysis does not significantly increase the environmental impacts of postulated accidents which are discussed in Section 5.9.2 of the FES, and is of no measurable environmental impact.

*Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

*Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3," dated February 1982.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 7, 1997, the staff consulted with the Arizona State official, Mr. William Wright of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

*Finding of No Significant Impact*

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated March 7, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
James W. Clifford,

*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate  
IV-2, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV,  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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[Docket No. 50-271]

**Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power  
Corporation; Vermont Yankee Nuclear  
Power Station; Environmental  
Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption for Facility Operating License No. DPR-28, issued to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (the facility) located in Windham County, Vermont.

**Environmental Assessment**

*Identification of Proposed Actions*

The proposed exemption would grant relief in certain outdoor areas of the protected area of the facility to allow use of security lighting for outdoor access and egress and the performance of one specified task in either of two locations for compliance with Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR part 50. The exemption would include outdoor portions of the protected area for access and egress and for supply of nitrogen from either of two outdoor locations: (1) the 15,000 gallon liquid nitrogen containment inerting tank located outdoors, east of the reactor building, or (2) nitrogen storage bottles located on the west wall of the reactor building equipment air lock.