March 14, 2000

LICENSEE: Arizona Public Service Company

FACILITY: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON MARCH 9, 2000, TO DISCUSS PROGRESS MADE BY PALO VERDE LICENSEE IN DEVELOPING IN-HOUSE CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT FUEL RELOAD ANALYSIS

On March 9, 2000, the NRC and the Palo Verde licensee, Arizona Public Service Company (APS), met in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the progress made by APS in developing in-house capability to perform fuel reload analysis. In addition to a general discussion of methods and results, APS also informed the staff of when the necessary submittals would be provided for staff review. The licensee plans to submit a topical report on CASMO/SIMULATE in June 2000, and will also submit technical specification requests in late 2000 and early 2001 to reflect changes in the departure from nucleate boiling allowable limit, and to add the newer codes.

Enclosure 1 is the list of attendees for the meeting, and Enclosure 2 is a copy of the slides presented by the licensee.

/RA/

Mel B. Fields, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529,
and STN 50-530

Enclosures: 1. List of Meeting Attendees
2. Licensee's Meeting Slides

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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cc:

Mr. Steve Olea
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Douglas Kent Porter
Senior Counsel
Southern California Edison Company
Law Department, Generation Resources
P.O. Box 800
Rosemead, CA 91770

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 40
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Harris Tower & Pavillion
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Chairman
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Mr. Aubrey V. Godwin, Director
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency
4814 South 40 Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Ms. Angela K. Krainik, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

Mr. John C. Horne
Vice President, Power Generation
El Paso Electric Company
2702 N. Third Street, Suite 3040
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Mr. David Summers
Public Service Company of New Mexico
414 Silver SW, #1206
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Mr. Jarlath Curran
Southern California Edison Company
5000 Pacific Coast Hwy Bldg DIN
San Clemente, CA 92672

Mr. Robert Henry
Salt River Project
6504 East Thomas Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Terry Bassham, Esq.
General Counsel
El Paso Electric Company
123 W. Mills
El Paso, TX 79901

Mr. John Schumann
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Southern California Public Power Authority
P.O. Box 51111, Room 1255-C
Los Angeles, CA 90051-0100

Mr. Gregg R. Overbeck
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
P. O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

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DATED: March 14, 2000

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

FUEL RELOAD IN-HOUSE CAPABILITY

NRC/APS

MARCH 9, 2000

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

Scott Bauer
James Proctor
Bob Bandera
Paul Crawley

NRC

Tony Attard
Larry Kopp
Chu-Yu Liang
Mel Fields
Steve Dembek

Enclosure 1

PVNGS
Nuclear Fuel Management
Update

March 9, 2000

Enclosure 2

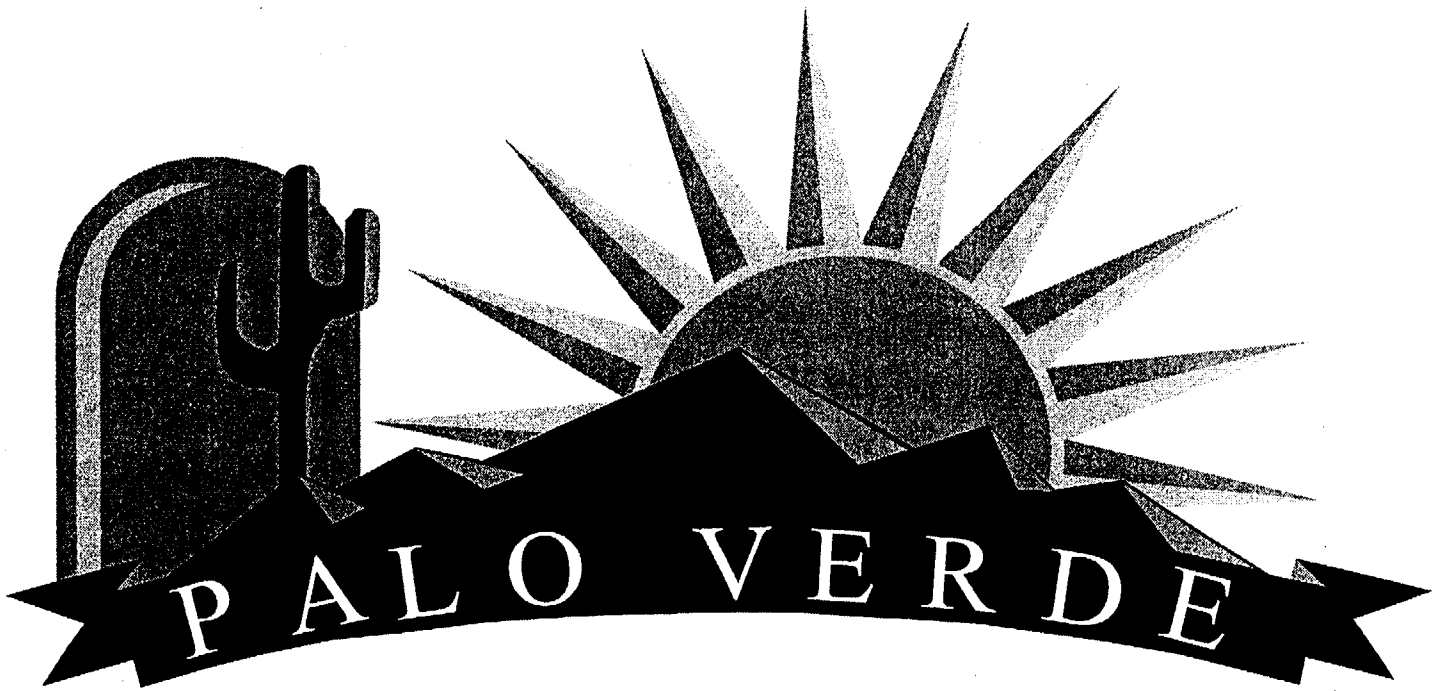
Purpose

- Progress - 1999
  - » Spent Fuel Storage
  - » Models and Methods
  - » Clad Testing
  - » Unit 2 Steam Generator Replacement / Power Uprate
  - » Fuel Performance

Purpose

- Current and Future
  - » Spent Fuel Storage
  - » Models and Methods
  - » Clad Testing
  - » Unit 2 Steam Generator Replacement / Power Uprate
  - » Fuel Performance

Dry Spent Fuel Storage Update



March 9, 2000

Significant Milestones

- Engineering Design Work for 2000
  - » ISFSI Design
  - » Site Interface Mods with ISFSI
  - » Transportation Route Modes and Equipment Spec
  - » Support Structure for Cask Loading Process
  - » 72.212 Documentation
- Site Work
  - » Crane Testing
  - » Modification of Unit 1 Load Pit Gate Seals

Project Work

- Prepare for Canister Fabrication
  - » Develop 72.48 Program
  - » Develop QA & Engineering Fab Follow Program
  - » Select and Qualify Fabricator
- Development of PVNGS Load Process
  - » Test Crane for Reliability & Capability
  - » Develop Procedures
  - » Resolve Licensing Issues for PVNGS Process
  - » Evaluate Welding Processes & Equipment
  - » Develop Automated Weld Inspection Capability
- Develop Initial Training Program

NAC Status

- UMS CoC in Rulemaking Process
  - » Public Comments due April 5th
  - » Final CoC Schedule for October,2000
- Maine Yankee Fabrication Starts April, 2000
- PVNGS Early Fabrication Start is December, 2000
  - » First Canister Delivery December, 2001

Schedule Overview

CASK ACTIVITIES

1/15/00 – 10/1/00	12/1/00 – 12/15/01	5/1/01 – 5/1/02
UMS Lic	Fab 1st UMS System	Fab 7 UMS Systems

ISFSI PREPARATION

4/01/00 – 12/31/00	1/01/01 – 12/31/01
•ISFSI Design •Plant MOD Design	•ISFSI Construction •Plant MOD Install

LOADING PREPARATION

6/01/00 – 12/31/01	1/1/02 – 3/31/02	5/12/02 – 7/19/02	7/22/02 – 9/15/02
Develop Procedures & Training	•Deliver Training •Perform Pre op Testing	Dry Run Practice	Load 1st Systems

Models & Methods

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

March 9, 2000 Status

Major Projects

- CASMO/SIMULATE Topical
- CENTS Implementation
- 1D Thermal Hydraulics
- Fuel Clad Performance

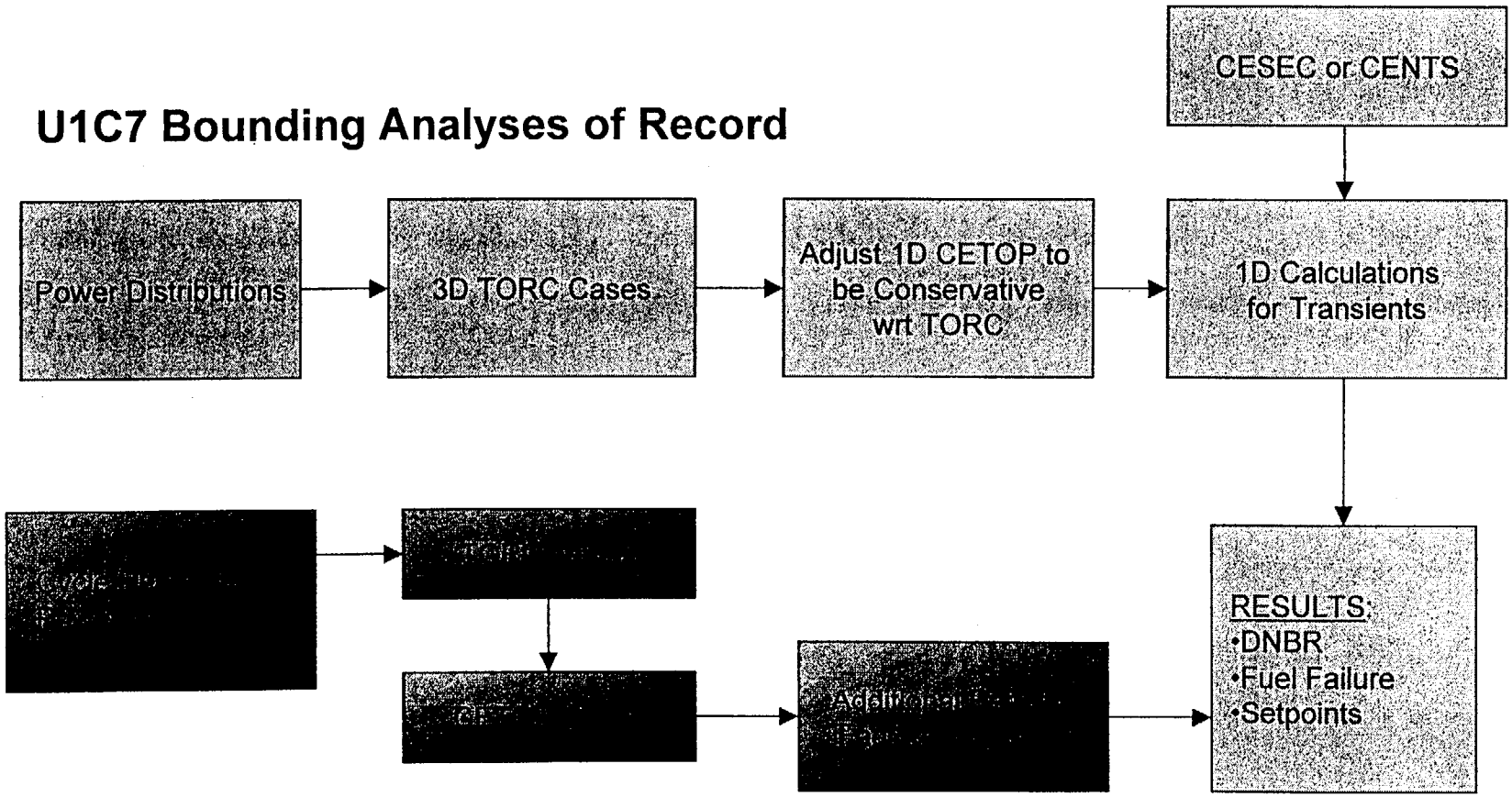
CASMO/SIMULATE

- Replace
  - » DIT & ROCS/MC with CASMO-4 & SIMULATE-3
  - » Consistent Physics Codes in All Analyses
  - » Implementation in PAC Underway
- Benchmark Completed September 1999
- Topical Submittal in Early June
  - » CASMO/SIMULATE Not Generically Approved
  - » Tech Spec Change to COLR References

CENTS Implementation

- Replace CESEC with CENTS
  - » Code Generically Approved By NRC
  - » Using for U2 Steam Generator Replacement & Power Uprate Analyses
  - » 3876MW UFSAR Chapter 15 Reanalysis Nearly Complete
  - » Tech Spec Submittal late 2000
- GL 83-11 Supplement 1 Program
  - » Design Control Committee
  - » Safety Analysis Basis Document
  - » Technical Review Committee
  - » 10CFR50.59 Program

Reload TH Process Map



Current Cycle Verification Analysis

1D Thermal Hydraulics

- Same Method, More Adverse Results
  - » 10CFR21 -- Modern Flat Power Distributions
  - » More Screening Cases
  - » New MDNBR Limit
  - » Expanded Geometry Capability for 3D TORC

1D Thermal Hydraulics

- New Bounding Analyses In Preparation
  - » U2 SG Replacement/Uprate Analyses
  - » U1/U3 @ 3876 MW
  - » Automation Tools
  - » Training in August - Screening in September
  - » Tech Spec Submittal Early 2001

High Burnup Program

March 9, 2000 Status

PVNGS/ABB Joint Program

- OPTIN Clad Performance
  - » High Burnup Extension Topical
- Advanced Alloy Test Program
  - » Anikuloy
  - » Alloy A

OPTIN Clad Performance

- OPTIN Test Rods
  - » Burned to ~65 GWD/T in 4 Cycles
  - » High Duty in U3C7
- Oxide Thickness
  - » On Prediction, First 3 Cycles
  - » Above Prediction, 4th Cycle
  - » Little CRUD
- Spallation

ABB High Burnup Topical

- OPTIN Topical in NRC Review
  - » 62 GWD/T Maximum Rod Burnup
  - » 100 µm Maximum Oxide Thickness
- Issue - High Duty Fuel
  - » Corrosion Model Comparison to PV High Duty Fuel
  - » High Duty Fuel Observations at Other ABB/CE Plants
  - » 9-Pin Corrosion Model

CRUD Analysis Program

- Two CRUD Samples
  - » U1R8 - Once Burned Fuel Assembly
  - » U2R8 - Once Burned Rod from U2R8
- Chalk River Lab
  - » Same Tests as EPRI Robust Fuel Program
  - » Elements, Compounds, Morphology
  - » Samples Shipped February 8, 2000

Clad Oxide Model Development

- U3 Four Cycle OPTIN Benchmark
  - » Corrosion Model "Misses" 4th (High Duty) Cycle
- U2 Measurements on P2K410 Require Advanced Modeling
  - » CORETRAN Model
  - » 9-Pin Model
- Interim Guideline - Interface Power

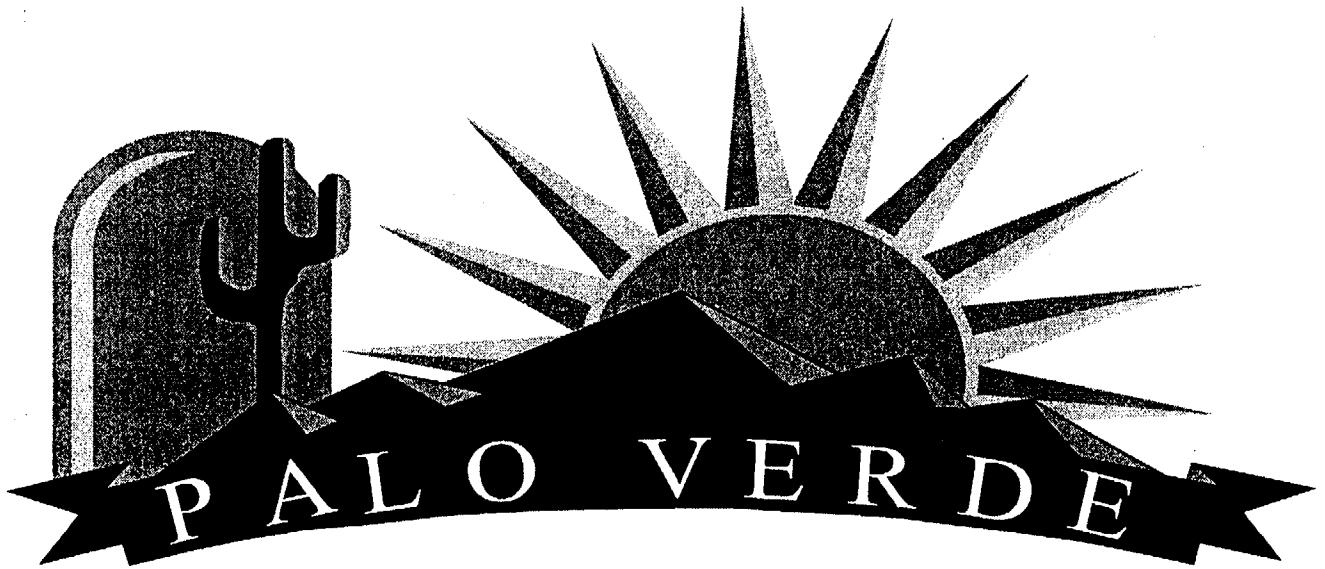
Steaming Rate Calculations

- Obtained Steaming Rate Utility Code
- Modified to Palo Verde Geometry & TH
- Reviewed by ABB
- Enhancements Underway
  - » Chen and Thom Correlations
  - » Quarter Assembly and Max Rod
- Screened U2C10 Core Design

Plans for 2000

- Continued Visuals
- CRUD/Oxide Measurements (P3J321)
- U2R9
  - » CRUD Sample
  - » Visuals on Peripheral & Interior Rods

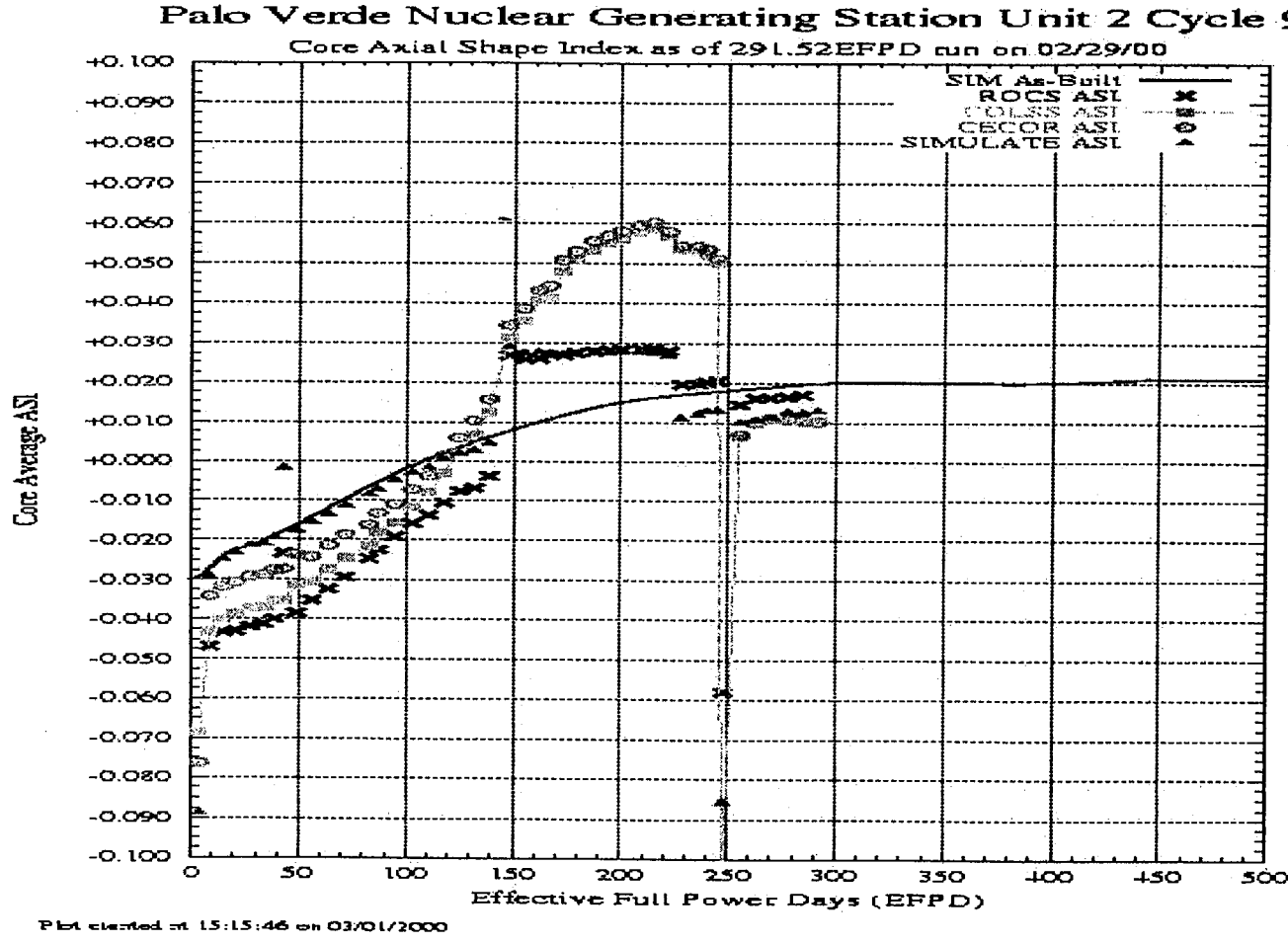
Palo Verde
Unit 2 Cycle 9
Power Distribution Anomaly



Summary for US NRC

March 9, 2000

Core Average Axial Shape Index (AO)



CECOR & COLSS - Measured Data
ROCS & SIMULATE - Calculated

Preliminary Conclusions

- U2C9 Behavior Similar To Mild AOA
  - » Azimuthal Variation Possibly Triggered by Initial Tilt
- Root Cause Likely Combination of Events
  - » Core Design (Steaming Rate)
  - » Initial Axial Offset (+4%)
  - » Unit 2 Specific TH (Flow and Temp)
  - » High Corrosion Products Mobile in Core

Safety Impacts from AOA

- Shutdown Margin
  - » Excess HFP SDM ~ 1090 pcm
  - » Precipitated Boron Worth ~200 pcm Max
- Core Depletion History
  - » Wide Axial Shape Band in Safety Analyses
  - » Carry-over to Next Cycle Analyses
- LHR Margin (115 minimum POL during anomaly)
- Reactivity Transients
  - » Conservatisms Bound Small Reactivity Insertion

Operational Impacts from AOA

- Core Depletes with Different History
  - » Axial Control When Power is Reduced
  - » Increased Uncertainty in ECPs
  - » Increased Uncertainty in 300 EFPD MTC
  - » Increased Uncertainty post RPCB
- Increased Co-58 Generation
- Possible Carry-over to Next Cycle
  - » Fuel Isotopics, CRUD Inventory, Lower Threshold

Prior Palo Verde Actions

- ABB Advanced Clad LTAs
- Enhanced Core Follow - Detected U2C9
- Increased Fuel Assembly Inspections
  - » Continuing Visuals with Periodic ECT Measurements
  - » U1 CRUD Sample Taken for Chalk River Analysis
- Additional Core Design Guidelines
  - » Decreased Number of Fresh-to-Fresh Interfaces
  - » Lowered Radial Peaking Target
  - » Established "Interface Power" CRUD Indicator
- Benchmarked Oxide Model

Recent Palo Verde Actions

- Modeling Core Behavior
  - » Built Empirical Core Physics Model
  - » Added Assembly Average Steaming Rate Calculation
  - » Initiated CORETRAN Coupled Physics-TH Study
  - » 9-pin Oxide Model Planned
- New Core Design Guideline
  - » Design within (less than) U2C9 Steaming Rates
- Chemistry
  - » Continue Clean-up Activities
  - » Investigate Recent Industry Practices
- CRUD Analysis
  - » Scrape U2 Once Burned Rod A5 (P2K410)

Potential Mitigation Strategies

- Core Design
  - » Increase Feed Batch Size (U2C10)
  - » Modify Assembly Burnup Rate w/BA's (U2C10)
  - » Axially Offset Burnable Absorbers
- Chemistry
  - » Nickel-Iron Chemistry Management (higher pH)
  - » Enriched Boron
- Operations
  - » Increase RCS Cleanup
  - » Increase RCS Pressure or Decrease T-inlet
  - » Ultrasound Fuel Assembly Cleaning