



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD CONFERENCE WITH ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE CO. FOR PALO VERDE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will hold a regulatory conference with representatives of Arizona Public Service Co. on Wednesday, June 1, to discuss an apparent violation of NRC requirements at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. APS operates the facility, located near Wintersburg, Ariz.

The conference will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. The public is invited to observe the meeting and will have one or more opportunities to communicate with the NRC after the business portion, but before the meeting is adjourned. Persons interested in participating in the conference via telephone can do so by calling (800) 952-9677 and dialing extension 475 to be transferred to the meeting.

An NRC inspection of Palo Verde this past winter discovered that changes made to the plant's emergency action levels apparently decreased the effectiveness of the plant's emergency plan. The changes removed direct use of measured radiation levels for the plant's classification of Site Area Emergency and General Emergency levels.

"Emergency preparedness is very important to protecting the public's health and safety," said NRC Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett. "Although the company corrected this problem when it was brought to their attention, it's important for us to discuss with APS how this happened and how they will prevent any recurrence."

The company asked the NRC for the opportunity to provide its perspective on the apparent violation and to offer any other information that they believe the NRC should take into consideration in making an enforcement decision. No decision on the apparent violations or any enforcement action will be made at the conference. Those decisions will be made later by NRC officials.

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