

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of July 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Ledyard B. Marsh,**

*Acting Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 03-17580 Filed 7-10-03; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI]

### In the Matter of Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation); Notice of Appointment of Adjudicatory Employee

Commissioners: Nils J. Diaz, Chairman, Edward McGaffigan, Jr., Jeffrey S. Merrifield.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.4, notice is hereby given that Dr. Yong Li of the NRC's Office of Research has been appointed as a Commission adjudicatory employee within the meaning of section 2.4, to advise the Commission regarding issues relating to the pending petition for review of LBP-03-08 in the matter of *Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C.* Dr. Li has not previously performed any investigative or litigating function in connection with this or any related proceeding. Until such time as a final decision is issued in this matter, interested persons outside the agency and agency employees performing investigative or litigating functions in this proceeding are required to observe the restrictions of 10 CFR 2.780 and 2.781 in their communications with Dr. Li.

*It is so ordered.*

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of July, 2003.

For the Commission.

**J. Samuel Walker,**

*Acting Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 03-17584 Filed 7-10-03; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, STN 50-530]

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 50, for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, NPF-74, issued to Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee), for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Units 1, 2, and 3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would extend the expiration date of the operating license from December 31, 2024, to June 1, 2025, for Unit 1; from December 9, 2025, to April 24, 2026, for Unit 2; and from March 25, 2027, to November 25, 2027, for Unit 3.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated August 28, 2002.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow the licensee to operate PVNGS, Units 1, 2, and 3, until June 1, 2025, April 24, 2026, and November 25, 2027, respectively. This would allow the licensee to recapture approximately six months of additional plant operation for each unit.

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there are no significant environmental considerations involved with the proposed action. The extension of the operating licenses does not affect the design or operation of the plants, does not involve any modifications to the plants or any increase in the licensed power for the plants, and will not create any new or unreviewed environmental impacts that were not considered in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) related to the operation of PVNGS, Units 1, 2, and 3, NUREG-0841, dated February 1982. The

evaluations presented in the FES were the environmental impacts of generating power at PVNGS and the basis for granting a 40-year operating license for PVNGS. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are based on the evaluations in the FES. The FES also considered the environmental impacts of operating Units 1, 2, and 3.

The FES which in general, assesses various impacts associated with operation of the facility in terms of annual impacts and balances these against the anticipated annual energy production benefits.

The offsite exposure from releases during postulated accidents has been previously evaluated in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) for PVNGS. The results are acceptable when compared with the criteria defined in 10 CFR part 100, as documented in the Commission's Safety Evaluation Report, NUREG-0857, dated November 1981, and its 12 supplements.

This conservative design-basis evaluation is a function of four parameters: (1) The type of accident postulated, (2) the radioactivity calculated to be released during the accident, (3) the assumed meteorological conditions at the site, and (4) the population distribution versus distance from the plant. An environmental assessment of accidents is also provided in section 5.9.2 of the FES. The type of accidents and the calculated radioactivity released do not change with the proposed action. The site meteorology as defined in Chapter 2 of the UFSAR is essentially constant. The NRC staff has concluded that the population size and distribution will not change significantly.

The NRC staff has concluded that the impacts associated with the addition of approximately six to eight months to each unit are not significantly different from operating license duration assessed in the PVNGS FES. Therefore, the staff concluded that the FES sufficiently addresses the environmental impacts associated with a full 40-year operating period for each unit.

The annual occupational exposure of workers at the plant, station employees and contractors, is reported in the Annual Operating Report submitted by the licensee. The lowest exposure value is for a year without a refueling outage and the highest value is for a year with a refueling outage. In section 5.9.1.1.1 of the FES, the average occupational exposure for a pressurized water reactor was reported as 440 person-rems. Therefore, the expected annual occupational exposure for the proposed extended period of operation does not