



0000060599

ORIGINAL



United States Department of the Interior RECEIVED

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Water Resources Division
Arizona District
520 N. Park Ave., Suite 221
Tucson, Arizona 85719

2002 APR -1 P 4: 58

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

April 1, 2002

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC
Docket No. L-00000AA-01-0116
Case No. 116

Duke Energy Arlington Valley Facility II
Decision No. 64495
Docket No. L-00000P-01-0117
Case No. 117

Dear Mr. Mundell;

This letter is written in response to questions that you raised during my testimony at the public hearing regarding the Allegheny Energy application on March 12. The fissure cited in my letter of February 12, 2002, is approximately 460 feet east of the southwest corner of Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 6 West, about 0.6 miles east of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station property in Maricopa County, and about 1.5 miles east of the station proper. The fissure is about 1 to 3 miles from the new powerplant structures in the vicinity of this generating station. The proposed La Paz Generating Facility is about 34 miles to the northwest of this fissure, and is in a different valley.

An earth fissure is a manifestation of land subsidence that may be occurring over a larger, perhaps basin-wide, area. The actual effects of land subsidence on electrical generating structures are engineering/design issues that are outside the USGS area of expertise. Long-term monitoring will provide an indication of the rate and extent of subsidence and may serve as advance warning for these structures.

The enclosed report, prepared by the Arizona Geological Survey following our visit, includes an excellent description of the earth fissure location and a brief summary of the geology of the fissure locale. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you feel we might be able to provide additional information needed by the Arizona Corporation Commission. As requested, I plan to attend the public hearing regarding the Duke Energy Case 117 on April 4, 2002.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information into the public record.

Sincerely yours,

Nick B. Melcher
District Chief

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

MAR 29 2002

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Larry Fellows, Arizona Geological Survey

DOCKETED BY