

August 2, 2000

LICENSEE: ENERGY NORTHWEST

FACILITY: WNP-2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE JUNE 26, 2000, MEETING WITH ENERGY NORTHWEST TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF WNP-2 PROPOSED SECONDARY CONTAINMENT LICENSE AMENDMENT SUBMITTAL

On June 26, 2000, the NRC staff met with representatives of Energy Northwest to discuss their plans to submit a license amendment to resolve the secondary containment drawdown issue and the associated justification for continued operation (JCO) for WNP-2. The secondary containment drawdown issue is: certain wind and low temperature conditions could reduce the capability to achieve the required negative differential pressure in secondary containment following a loss-of-coolant accident, coincident with an assumed failure of one standby gas treatment system. Enclosed is a list of the meeting participants. The meeting handouts are located in ADAMS under the accession number ML003726733.

Stuart Richards of the NRC staff, started the meeting by stating that he would like this meeting to provide the answers to three questions:

1. What is the safety significance of this issue?
2. How did we get here?
3. How do we move forward?

Rod Webring, Vice President of Operations for Energy Northwest, explained the topics that would be covered during the meeting. Included in the topics were the sequence of events that resulted in WNP-2 operating under a JCO for an extended period of time, the basis for the current JCO, Energy Northwest's strategy for resolution of these issues and the schedule for Energy Northwest to submit a license amendment.

Paul Inserra, WNP-2's Licensing Manager, discussed the history, the safety significance of this issue and the current JCO. The issue dates back to February of 1988 when WNP-2 identified the secondary containment drawdown issue. In September of 1989, the licensee's JCO Revision 0 concluded that containment drawdown and leakage would be maintained within 10 CFR Part 100 and GDC 19 limits when considering best estimate values for plant operating conditions. In January 1990, the NRC issued a safety evaluation (SE) that concluded continued operation of WNP-2 was justified until a final resolution was achieved. The JCO has been revised five times to include potential instrument inaccuracies, service water bounding temperature, and room cooler efficiencies. Mr. Inserra stated that the latest JCO (Rev. 5) is consistent with the SE issued by the NRC in 1990 and that no changes have been made to the plant that would invalidate the conclusions of the JCO. In October of 1996, a TS amendment was submitted. In July of 1999, Energy Northwest withdrew the amendment request due to technical errors, with plans to perform a new analysis and to resubmit the amendment request. There was a meeting held in January 2000 with the NRC and subsequently the schedule for

resubmittal slipped resulting in this meeting being held to discuss the schedule for submittal of the license amendment.

Michael Humphreys, WNP-2's Reactor/Fuels Engineering Manager, addressed the specific issues and proposed resolutions that will be dealt with in the submittal. The issues to be resolved are control room air in-leakage, determination of the appropriate code to use to determine atmospheric dispersion factors (ARCON 96 or Murphy-Campe) and justification of the assumption of 40 percent mixing in secondary containment. Control room air in-leakage verifications will be accomplished through tracer gas testing of the control room envelope. Testing is scheduled for September 2000, and the final report is due in October 2000. The guidance provided by the staff on the use of ARCON 96 has resulted in Energy Northwest re-evaluating whether to use ARCON 96 or Murphy-Campe to determine atmospheric dispersion factors. Energy Northwest is currently reviewing the adequacy of the justification for assuming 40 percent mixing in secondary containment.

Mr. Humphreys then discussed the approach that Energy Northwest plans to take in their license amendment submittal. The plan is to combine the main steam line leakage control system deletion project and the secondary containment submittal analysis efforts. The advantage to combining the submittals is that Energy Northwest and the NRC will have just one dose analysis to perform, which will minimize the resource impact on both parties. Combining the submittals will add approximately three months to the submittal schedule. In the submittal, Energy Northwest plans to use the alternate source term.

Bruce Boyum, WNP-2's Assistant Engineering Manager, reviewed the proposed task schedule that will result in the license amendment being submitted by June 29, 2001. Major tasks involve control room in-leakage testing, dose calculations and alternate source term analysis.

Mr. Webring completed Energy Northwest's presentation by asking if the staff had any questions or comments.

Mr. Blumberg of the NRC staff, asked if the errors that were found during the review of the license amendment affected the JCO. Mr. Inserra replied that the errors affected only the license amendment and not the JCO.

Ms. Leta Brown of the NRC staff, stated that the guidance for use of ARCON 96 requires that all releases are assumed to be ground level releases.

*/RA/*

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Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure: List of Meeting Participants

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MEETING WITH ENERGY NORTHWEST

JUNE 26, 2000

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Bruce Boyum  
Michael Humphreys

**UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS**

Dave Lochbaum

**NRC**

Stuart Richards  
Stephen Dembek  
Mark Blumberg  
Leta Brown  
Jack Cushing  
Rich Lobel