

August 17, 2000

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)
Richland, WA 99352-0968

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM LOCATING THE
 INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION SECONDARY
 POWER SUPPLY FOR THE ALARM ANNUNCIATION AND NON-PORTABLE
 COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IN A VITAL AREA (TAC NO. MA8868)**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

By letter dated April 24, 2000, Energy Northwest requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(e)(1) which requires an onsite secondary power supply system for alarm annunciator equipment and non-portable communications equipment to be located within a vital area. As stated, this request applies only to the WNP-2 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) which will be located in a separate protected area away from the operating reactor site.

Based on the review of your request, the staff has determined that an exemption is not required. A licensee meeting the requirements for a general license issued pursuant to 10 CFR 72.212 is not required to have a designated vital area within the ISFSI protected area since the dry cask storage containers provide an acceptable second barrier due to its size, weight, and construction characteristics to protect against the design basis threat of radiological sabotage. This position is consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 73.51 which does not have vital areas located within the ISFSI.

Accordingly, the staff has determined that Energy Northwest need only commit to having a "secondary power supply for alarm annunciator equipment and non-portable communications equipment" in the WNP-2 ISFSI Physical Security Plan to meet the requirements for an uninterruptible power supply.

Mr. J. V. Parrish

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August 17, 2000

Should Energy Northwest desire to discuss the specific details of the security program for the WNP-2 ISFSI, the staff would be willing to participate in a conference call or meeting with your staff.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

cc: See next page

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WNP-2

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