

January 30, 2002

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

SUBJECT: ENERGY NORTHWEST NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 1 (WNP-1) - ORDER
EXTENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE (TAC NO. MB1804)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

In response to Energy Northwest's letter dated April 9, 2001, requesting an extension of the completion date for the construction of WNP-1, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued an Order extending the construction completion date of Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 from June 1, 2001, to June 1, 2011. In addition, the permit holder's name has been updated from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest.

Copies of the Order and the staff's safety evaluation supporting your request are enclosed. The Order has been sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the *Federal Register* on January 30, 2002 (67 FR 4475).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Joseph M. Sebrosky, Senior Project Manager
New Reactor Licensing Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-460

Enclosures: 1. Order
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	
ENERGY NORTHWEST)	
)	Docket No. 50-460
(Nuclear Project No. 1))	

ORDER

Energy Northwest (formerly Washington Public Power Supply, permittee) is the current holder of Construction Permit No. CPPR-134, issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on December 23, 1975, for construction of Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1). The facility is presently in a deferred construction status at the permittee's site at the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation in Benton County, Washington, approximately eight miles north of Richland, Washington.

On April 9, 2001, the permittee submitted a request pursuant to Section 50.55(b) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Section 50.55(b)) that the completion date for WNP-1 be extended from June 1, 2001, to June 1, 2011. In addition, the permittee requested the NRC to update the permit to reflect an administrative change in the permit holder's name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest. The permittee requested this extension for WNP-1 for the following reasons, as stated in its application:

Increased electrical load in the Pacific Northwest has underscored the need for a flexible range of power generation options and alternatives to meet the region's growing base-load power supply needs. Furthermore, in response to the energy crisis in the Western United States, some of our stakeholders have requested that we conduct a viability study on the completion of the facility. Until the viability study is completed and decisions on generating options to meet future load forecasts are finalized, maintaining WNP-1 as a deferred facility is consistent with our commitment to maintain potential generating resources.

Energy Northwest also stated that the extension request is consistent with Section A.2 of Generic Letter (GL) 87-15, "Policy Statement on Deferred Plants." The NRC's Policy Statement on Deferred Plants addresses extension of construction permits for plants in a deferred status and states that the staff will consider such extensions in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(b). Section 50.55(b) does not specify any limit on the length of an extension the staff may grant, but states that "[u]pon good cause shown the Commission will extend the completion date for a reasonable period of time." The staff has concluded that the permittee's stated bases for the requested extension represent good cause, and are reasonable.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that extending the construction completion date will have no significant impact on the environment.

The NRC staff has prepared an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact which was published in the *Federal Register* on January 30, 2002 (67 FR 4475).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated April 9, 2001, and the NRC staff's letter and safety evaluation of the request for extension of the construction permit, dated January 30, 2002. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and are accessible electronically through the ADAMS public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the latest completion date for Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 is extended from June 1, 2001, to June 1, 2011, and that the permit holder's name be changed from Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of January 2002.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Jon R. Johnson, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATING TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-134

ENERGY NORTHWEST NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 1 (WNP-1)

DOCKET NO. 50-460

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A construction permit was issued to Washington Public Power Supply System (permittee) on December 23, 1975, authorizing construction of Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1) in Benton County, Washington. Currently, Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 specifies June 1, 2001, as the latest date for completion of WNP-1.

Pursuant to Section 50.55(b) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.55(b)), the permittee requested that this date be extended to June 1, 2011. The permittee's request for this construction permit extension is contained in its letter dated April 9, 2001. The permittee also requested that the permit be updated to reflect an administrative change in the permit holder's name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest.

2.0 DISCUSSION

The permittee's letter of April 9, 2001, gave the following reasons for the construction permit extension request:

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(b), good cause now exists to extend the construction permit latest completion date. Increased electrical load in the Pacific Northwest has underscored the need for a flexible range of power generation options and alternatives to meet the region's growing base-load power supply needs. Furthermore, in response to the energy crisis in the Western United States, some of our stakeholders have requested that we conduct a viability study on the completion of the facility. Until the viability study is completed and decisions on generating options to meet future load forecasts are finalized, maintaining WNP-1 as a deferred facility is consistent with our commitment to maintain potential generating resources.

Energy Northwest also stated that the extension request is consistent with Section A.2 of Generic Letter (GL) 87-15, "Policy Statement on Deferred Plants." The NRC's Policy Statement on Deferred Plants addresses extension of construction permits for plants in deferred status and states that the staff will consider such extensions in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(b). Section 50.55(b) does not specify any limit on the duration of an extension that the staff may grant, but states that "[u]pon good cause shown the Commission will extend the completion

date for a reasonable period of time.” The staff has concluded that the permittee’s stated bases for the requested duration of the extension are reasonable and that good cause has been shown for the extension requested by the permittee.

In a May 3, 2001, meeting, documented in a meeting summary dated May 17, 2001, the permittee stated that it considered the plant to be in a terminated status. However, the permittee stated that some preventative maintenance activities were being performed and that the dry climate in the area is conducive to a long-term layup of the plant. Section B.2 of the Policy Statement on Deferred Plants discusses measures that should be considered for reactivation or transfer of ownership of terminated plants. The permittee will have to address this section of the Policy Statement if construction of the plant resumes.

In its April 9, 2001, letter Energy Northwest also requested that the permit be updated to reflect an administrative change in the permit holder’s name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest. Energy Northwest stated the following about this request:

The change in the corporate name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest is purely administrative in nature. The legal corporate status of the construction permit holder has not changed.

Because the legal corporate status of the construction permit holder has not changed, the staff agrees that changing the permit holder’s name is purely administrative.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared and published in the *Federal Register* on January 30, 2002 (67 FR 4475). Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the staff has determined that extending the construction completion dates will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Based on the review of the permittee’s request, the NRC staff concludes that the factors discussed above constitute good cause for delaying the completion of construction under 10 CFR 50.55(b).

4.0 CONCLUSION

The staff finds that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by extension of the construction completion date. Good cause exists for issuance of an order extending the completion date. Accordingly, the staff has concluded that the action does not involve a significant hazards consideration and that, based upon the foregoing evaluation, issuance of an order extending the latest completion date for construction of WNP-1 is reasonable and should be authorized. The latest completion date for WNP-1 should be extended to June 1, 2011.

Principal Contributor: Joseph M. Sebrosky, NRR

Date: January 30, 2002

Washington Nuclear Project No. 1

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