

May 2, 1989

Docket No.: 50-397

Mr. G. C. Sorensen, Manager
Regulatory Programs
Washington Public Power Supply System
P.O. Box 968
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352

DISTRIBUTION

<u>Docket File</u>	TMeek (4)
NRC & LPDRs	Wanda Jones
PD5 Reading	EButcher
MVirgilio	ACRS (10)
JLee	GPA/PA
RSamworth	ARM/LFMB
OGC (info)	Region V (4)
DHagan	
EJordan	
BGrimes	

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF AMENDMENT REQUEST - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
WPPSS NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (TAC NO. 59820)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reviewed your October 4, 1985 application for amendment to Facility Operating License NPF-21. We have also considered the supplemental information provided by letters dated December 5, 1985 and August 4, 1986. The proposed amendment would remove certain requirements from the Technical Specifications pertaining to the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) system.

The staff has found that operating experience and probabilistic risk assessment have generally shown the RCIC system to be important to public health and safety. Therefore your request for deletion of the specified RCIC system requirements is denied. A discussion of the basis of the denial is contained in the enclosed safety evaluation.

Also enclosed for your information is a copy of the notice of denial that was forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Robert B. Samworth, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation
2. Notice of Denial

cc w/enclosures:

See next page

*See previous concurrence

DRSP/PD5
JLee*
8/25/88

DRSP/PD5
RSamworth*:dr
8/25/88

RR/SRXB
WHodges
3/30/89

OGC
R Bachmann
2/27/89

DRSP/PD5
GKNighton
3/2/89

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

8905150029 890502
PDR ADUCK 05000397
P PDC

DF01
1/1

04/28/89



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 2, 1989

Docket No.: 50-397

Mr. G. C. Sorensen, Manager
Regulatory Programs
Washington Public Power Supply System
P.O. Box 968
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF AMENDMENT REQUEST - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
WPPSS NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (TAC NO. 59820)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reviewed your October 4, 1985 application for amendment to Facility Operating License NPF-21. We have also considered the supplemental information provided by letters dated December 5, 1985 and August 4, 1986. The proposed amendment would remove certain requirements from the Technical Specifications pertaining to the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) system.

The staff has found that operating experience and probabilistic risk assessment have generally shown the RCIC system to be important to public health and safety. Therefore your request for deletion of the specified RCIC system requirements is denied. A discussion of the basis of the denial is contained in the enclosed safety evaluation.

Also enclosed for your information is a copy of the notice of denial that was forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Samworth".

Robert B. Samworth, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation
2. Notice of Denial

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

Mr. G. C. Sorensen, Manager
Washington Public Power Supply System

WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2
(WNP-2)

cc:

Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esq.
Bishop, Cook, Purcell
& Reynolds
1400 L Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

Regional Administrator, Region V
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Mr. G. E. Doupe, Esquire
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352

Chairman
Benton County Board of Commissioners
Prosser, Washington 99350

Mr. Curtis Eschels, Chairman
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Mail Stop PY-11
Olympia, Washington 98504

Mr. Christian Bosted
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 69
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Alan G. Hosler, Licensing Manager
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968, MD 956B
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. A. Lee Oxsen
Assistant Managing Director for Operations
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968, MD 1023
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Gary D. Bouchey, Director
Licensing and Assurance
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968, MD 280
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. C. M. Powers
WNP-2 Plant Manager
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box MD 927M
Richland, Washington 99352



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
REGARDING DENIAL OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-21
WASHINGTON NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-397

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In a letter dated October 4, 1985 (G02-85-694) the licensee requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21 that would remove technical specification requirements pertaining to the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system. The licensee argued that previous modifications to the automatic depressurization system (ADS) logic have made the ADS responsive to a wider range of transients and, in conjunction with the low pressure emergency core cooling systems (ECCS), the ADS provides a backup to the high pressure core spray (HPCS) systems for high pressure events.

By letter dated December 5, 1985 (G02-85-817) the licensee made two modifications to the amendment application: to minimize the potential for spurious automatic actuations of the RCIC system, the licensee proposed retaining requirements for the automatic initiation instrumentation and its surveillance; and to minimize the potential for RCIC operation to overfill the reactor vessel, the licensee proposed retaining the requirements for the RCIC high reactor water level trip instrumentation.

By letter dated August 4, 1986 (G02-86-732) the licensee requested additional page changes to delete references to the operability of the RCIC system. This final set of changes do not modify the intent or understanding of the original request but are essentially editorial.

2.0 EVALUATION

The modifications which the licensee made to the ADS were made in response to the findings of the studies of the TMI accident (NUREG-0892, "Outstanding Issue I.7(9), Modifications to ADS Systems Logic"). The modifications to the ADS provided additional capability for ensuring heat removal at high reactor pressure. This gets away from total reliance on the RCIC system as the backup to the HPCS system.

On February 6, 1987 the Commission issued for public comment an Interim Policy Statement titled, "Commission Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors," (Federal Register 52 FR 3788). The general intent was to focus technical specification

requirements on features of a facility that are of controlling importance to safety. Some reliance was placed on probabilistic risk assessment. That interim policy statement provided guidance for use by licensees in requesting removal of extraneous license requirements. The policy statement set forth three criteria that would provide the basis for determining those constraints on design and operation of nuclear power plants that belong in Technical Specifications. The interim policy statement went on to declare that, in addition to structures, systems, and components captured by the three criteria, licensees should retain in their Technical Specifications Limiting Conditions for Operations, Action Statements and Surveillance Requirements for four systems. One of these four explicitly identified is the reactor core isolation cooling system. The Commission's position is based on their observation that operating experience and probabilistic risk assessment have generally shown the systems to be important to public health and safety.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the recognition that operating experience and probabilistic risk assessment have shown the reactor core isolation cooling system to be important to public health and safety, the request for the amendment is denied.

Principal Contributor: R. Samworth

Dated: May 2, 1989

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

DOCKET NO. 50-397

NOTICE OF DENIAL OF AMENDMENT TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has denied a request by Washington Public Power Supply System (licensee) for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21, issued to the licensee for operation of the Nuclear Project No. 2 in Benton County, Washington. The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment was published in the Federal Register on January 29, 1986 (51 FR 3721).

The amendment, as proposed by the licensee, would remove Technical Specification (TS) requirements pertaining to the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling System. The licensee has argued that the automatic depressurization system in conjunction with the low pressure emergency core cooling systems provides adequate backup to the high pressure core spray systems. The Commission issued an Interim Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements (52 FR 3788, February 6, 1987) in which it declared that technical specifications should contain limiting conditions for operation, action statements and surveillance requirements for the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling System because operating experience and probabilistic risk assessment have generally shown this system to be important to public health and safety. Therefore this amendment request is denied on the basis of the Commission Interim Policy Statement.

By June 8, 1989 the licensee may demand a hearing with respect to the denial described above and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a written petition for leave to intervene.

A request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., by the above date.

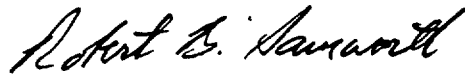
A copy of any petitions should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Mr. Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esq., Bishop, Cook, Purcell and Reynolds, 1400 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-3502, and G. E. Doupe, Esq., Washington Public Power Supply System, P.O. Box 968, 3000 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington 99532, attorneys for the licensee.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated October 4, 1985, and supplemental letters dated December 5, 1985 and August 4, 1986, and (2) the Commission's Safety Evaluation forwarded to the licensee by letter dated May 2, 1989, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Richland Public Library, Swift and Northgate Streets, Richland, Washington 99352. A copy of item (2) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

20555, Attention: Director, Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V and Special Projects.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of May, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Samworth".

Robert B. Samworth, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects