

February 16, 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: HPCS DIESEL GENERATOR INCOMPLETE START SEQUENCE TRIP BYPASS
(TAC NO. 71390)

Enclosed for your information is a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing. The notice relates to your December 2, 1988 (G02-88-257) request for an amendment to technical specification surveillance requirement 4.8.1.1.2.e.7 regarding verification that automatic diesel generator trips are bypassed upon an accident signal. The request was supplemented by your submittal of February 1, 1989 (G02-89-013).

The Notice has been sent to 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

Enclosure:
Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Samworth".

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

Enclosure:
Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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

WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2
(WNP-2)

cc:

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Bishop, Cook, Purcell
& Reynolds
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Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington Public Power Supply System
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Richland, Washington 99532

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
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Richland, Washington 99352

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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 COMMISSIONWASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMDOCKET NO. 50-397NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21 issued to Washington Public Power Supply System (the licensee), for operation of Nuclear Project No. 2, located in Benton County, Washington. The request for amendment was submitted by letter dated December 2, 1988 and supplemented by letter dated February 1, 1989.

The proposed amendment would change Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.e.7. which is part of the demonstration of operability of the emergency diesel generators. The surveillance requirement currently prescribes that upon loss of voltage on the emergency bus concurrent with an emergency core cooling system (ECCS) actuation signal, all division 3 automatic diesel generator trips will be bypassed except engine overspeed, generator differential current, and emergency manual stop.

The proposed amendment would show that the bypass occurs on the ECCS actuation signal. It would also include the incomplete start sequence trip in the set of trips not bypassed.

In its application for the amendment, the licensee declared that the changes to the surveillance requirement are necessary to make the requirement consistent with the actual installed design of the automatic bypass function

of the diesel generator trips. The licensee contends that these changes were an oversight in the preparation of the WNP-2 technical specifications as the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) descriptions were filed with NRC before issuance of the technical specifications.

On February 2, 1989 the Commission issued a temporary waiver of compliance to the above technical specification in order to avoid shutdown of the reactor while the amendment application is undergoing review.

- Prior to issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed changes do not involve an increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously reviewed because the objectives for bypassing diesel generator trips during an accident are met. The accident which the system is designed to protect against is the loss of coolant accident (LOCA). Exceptions to the requirement that trips be bypassed have been allowed if coincident logic is used to avoid spurious trips. In their February 1, 1989 submittal, the licensee described redundant instrumentation

features which disable the incomplete starting sequence trip during normal operation of the diesel, precluding spurious trips. Therefore no increase in the probability or consequence of this accident will occur.

The proposed changes will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident because there is no change to emergency diesel generator system design or function.

The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The licensee has argued that the purpose of the incomplete start sequence trip is to preserve air if a starting sequence is unsuccessful. The circuitry associated with the incomplete starting sequence notifies the control room operator of a failure to start the diesel engine automatically and thus allows operator intervention.

On the basis of the above arguments, the Commission proposes to determine that these changes do not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination. The Commission will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Comments should be addressed to the Regulatory Publications Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room P-216, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Copies

of written comments may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By March 27, 1989 , the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license, and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition, and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene must set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition

should also identify the specific aspects(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission may make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner or representative for the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 325-6000 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to George W. Knighton: petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER

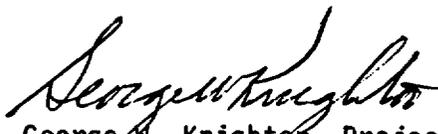
notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel-White Flint, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esq., Bishop, Cook, Purcell and Reynolds, 1400 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20005-3502, and Mr. G. E. Doupe, Esq., Washington Public Power Supply System, P.O. Box 968, 3000 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington 99352, attorneys for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714 (a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the Richland City Library, Swift and Northgate Streets, Richland, Washington 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of February, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



George W. Knighton, Project Director
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects