

April 2, 1992

Docket No. 50-397

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

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING - (WASHINGTON PUBLIC
POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WPPSS) NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M82968)

Enclosed is a copy of the subject notice which relates to your application for
amendment dated March 18, 1992, to revise the WNP-2 Technical Specifications
to incorporate a more direct method for determining the efficiency of the
hydrogen recombiners associated with the Containment Atmospheric Control
System.

This notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,
Original signed by

William M. Dean, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects, III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: 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, appearing to read "William M. Dean".

William M. Dean, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects, III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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

WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2
(WNP-2)

cc:

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WNP-2 Plant Manager
Public Power Supply System
P.O. Box 968, MD 927M
Richland, Washington 99352

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington
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Chairman
Benton County Board of Commissioners
P. O. Box 190
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Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Mail Stop PY-11
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Mr. R. C. Sorensen
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Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968, MD 280
Richland, Washington 99352

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMDOCKET NO. 50-397NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, 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 (WPPSS), for operation of the WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2 (WNP-2) located in Benton County, Washington.

The proposed amendment would revise the technical specifications (TS) to incorporate a more direct method for determining the efficiency of the hydrogen recombiners associated with the Containment Atmospheric Control (CAC) system.

A temporary waiver of compliance was granted by the Commission on March 13, 1992, to allow the proposed TS amendment to be used in determining the operability of the CAC system. This allowed the licensee to start up WNP-2 following a brief outage. The amendment request is considered to meet the exigent criteria stated in 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) in that timely action is required to process the amendment and eliminate the need to rely on a temporary waiver of compliance to justify operability of the CAC system.

Before 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.

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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. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

(1) The proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The recombiners are provided as an accident mitigating feature and, as such, do not have potential to cause an accident. In addition, the consequences of accidents are not increased. The 25 ppmV acceptance criterion more adequately demonstrates operability of the CAC system as it is a more direct indication of recombiner operational efficiency and is not dependent on analytical methods of determining input parameters or temperature losses and temperature measurement inaccuracies. Hence, there is no increase in the consequences of an accident introduced by this request as the proposed testing method is superior to that currently in the TS, as it better quantifies the conversion capability of the catalyst. The existing testing method only confirms an efficiency of approximately 80 percent while the proposed method confirms a minimum efficiency of 99.75 percent for the minimum 1 percent hydrogen feed.

(2) The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

No new methods of system operation are introduced by this request. Accordingly, no new or different kind of accident is credible as a result of this request.

(3) The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The proposed testing provides a more direct and rigorous acceptance criterion. Sampling of the feed and product gases will be a more reliable indicator of catalyst performance thus assuring that the margin to unacceptable oxygen level is maintained. Limiting the catalyst bed preheat temperature to less than that expected for a LOCA condition provides additional assurance that the margin of safety will be maintained. Hence, this request does not represent a decrease in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within fifteen (15) 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.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Rules and Directives Review 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-223, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal Workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By _____, 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 a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition 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. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington 99352.

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, 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 shall 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 aspect(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. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of

the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. 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 the amendment is issued before the expiration of 30-days, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, 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 immediately 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 request 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 15-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 15-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 in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of 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 must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., 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 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 James E. Gagliardo, Acting Project Director: 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, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esq., Winston & Strawn, 1400 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3502, attorney 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 Panel 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 dated March 18, 1992, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room, located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of April, 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



William M. Dean, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation