

July 6, 1999

Mr. J. V. Parrish  
Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Public Power Supply System  
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (WNP-2)  
(TAC NO. MA5456)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for license amendment dated June 3, 1999. The proposed amendment would change the name of the licensee from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

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

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Cushing".

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

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Nuclear Project No. 2

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

DOCKET NO. 50-397

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21, issued to the Washington Public Power Supply System (the licensee), for operation of the WPPSS Nuclear Project No.2 (WNP-2), located in Benton County, Washington.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would revise Facility Operating License No. NPF-21 to reflect the change in the licensee's name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest. In addition, the facility, WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2, will now be referred to as WNP-2.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated June 3, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is required to change the operating license to accurately reflect the new name of the licensee.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes, that the name change is administrative in nature and will not affect the operation of WNP-2.

The proposed amendment will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Washington Public Power System Nuclear Project No.2 dated December 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 16, 1999, the staff consulted with the Washington State official, Mr. Crowley of the Department of Health, State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated June 3, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C., and at the local public document room located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of July 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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