

December 18, 1998

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

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (TAC NO.  
M96929)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated October 10, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1998. The proposed amendment would change Facility Operating License No. NPF-21 to authorize the storage of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials at the WNP-2 site which are not intended for use at the site.

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

Sincerely,  
Original Signed By Mel Fields for  
Chester Poslusny, Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Reactor Projects -III/IV  
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 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 Nuclear Project No. 2 (WNP-2) located in Benton County, Washington.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would change Facility Operating License No. NPF-21 to authorize the storage of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials at the WNP-2 site which are specifically not intended for use at the site. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated October 10, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is necessary because certain licensed materials previously acquired as part of the deferred WNP-1 and WNP-3 projects are being controlled at WNP-2, but are not

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required for use at the WNP-2 site. The WNP-1 materials are under the scope of Materials License 46-17694-02 and the WNP-3 materials are under the scope of Facility Operating License NPF-21. The licensee, however, has given notice that the WNP-1 and WNP-3 projects are being terminated and a formal request has been filed for termination of the WNP-3 Construction Permit.

The licensee has determined that there is currently no market for the materials and has determined that permanent disposal is economically impractical. Storage under the WNP-2 Operating License which currently provides for possession and use of these types of materials as required for WNP-2, is the remaining option. This option does not present WNP-2 with any significant burden because operation of WNP-2 involves a continuing use and storage of these types of licensed materials.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment. The amendment would permit certain byproduct, source and special nuclear material already present at the site to be stored at the site.

The proposed action 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 nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological 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 WNP-2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 17, 1998, the staff consulted with the Washington State official, Mr. R. Cowley 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 October 10, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman

Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington, 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of December 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mel B. Fields".

Mel B. Fields, Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Reactor Projects -III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation