



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

August 16, 2004

EA 04-101

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

**SUBJECT: STATUS OF NRC'S REVIEW OF DENIED NONCITED VIOLATION (NRC
INSPECTION REPORT 05000397/2003007)**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

This is in reference to Mr. R. L. Webring's letter dated April 16, 2004, in response to our January 30, 2004, letter and integrated inspection report concerning use of nonsafety-related instrument air during main steam isolation valve local leak rate testing. A noncited violation (NCV 50-397/03-07-01) was identified for inadequate local leak rate testing due to the use of the nonsafety-related instrument air. In Mr. Webring's response, Energy Northwest denied this noncited violation.

In addition to providing the basis for disputing the noncited violation, Mr. Webring's letter stated that the issue was generic in nature and that Energy Northwest was discussing the issue with the BWR Owners Group.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the NRC is evaluating the generic aspects of this issue, as well as potential generic solutions. We will inform you by a separate letter of the results of our review and the resolution of the denied violation.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

William B. Jones, Chief
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Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

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R:_COL\2003\COL2003-07RP Denied Violation Status Letter.wpd

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