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RECIPINAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION SCHWENCER, AL. Licensing, Branch. 2'

SUBJECT: Ack receipt of 810807 ltr transmitting DES for facility. Final statement on Page 5-9 should be clarified to determine what impacts will occur to bald eagles.

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## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ER 81/1537

OCT 7 1981

Mr. A. Schwencer Chief, Licensing Branch No. 2 Division of Licensing Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Schwencer:

Thank you for your letter of August 7, 1981, transmitting copies of the draft environmental impact statement related to the Operation of WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2, Benton County, Washington and have the following comments.

We recommend that the aquatic monitoring program be strictly adhered to in order to provide maximum protection to anadromous salmonids. We consider the protection and enhancement of the Columbia River's salmon and steelhead populations to be among the Nation's highest priority fish and wildlife resource issues. We are, however, in basic agreement with conclusions in the draft statement that fish and wildlife resources (including the important anadromous salmonids of the Columbia River Basin) will not be significantly impacted by normal operation of the project.

The letter contained in Appendix H addresses the legal mandates of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., but that letter does not address the consultation requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act as implied on page 4-10. This matter should be clarified in the final statement.

We recommend the final statement be clarified on page 5-9 to determine what impacts will occur to bald eagles since they winter in the vicinity. Your statement that no impacts to the bald eagle will occur because of the lack of suitable reproductive habitat does not address how the project might affect wintering bald eagles.

We hope these comments will be helpful to you in the preparation of a final statement.

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Bruce Blanchard, Director

Environmental Project Review

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