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OCT 15 1981

Docket No . 50-397

Mr. R. L. Ferguson
Managing Director
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Subject: Appendix R of 10 CFR Part 50 - Fire Protection Rule

The Commission published a revised Section 10 CFR 50.48 and a new Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 on November 19, 1980 (45 FR 76602). This rule became effective on February 17, 1981, and it specifies certain fire protection features for operating nuclear power plants licensed before January 1979. The technical requirements stated in Appendix R were adopted after several years experience with the fire protection guidelines of Appendix A to BTP-ASB 9.5-1 in evaluating fire protection programs. A copy of the Federal Register Notice is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

The technical requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 are now being used as guidelines in our evaluation of the fire protection program for plants under review for operating licenses.

It has been our recent practice to perform the fire protection reviews for OL plants using the provisions of Appendix R. Accordingly, as part of your overall fire protection program submittal, we request that you include a comparison of your fire protection program to Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Specifically identify and justify any deviation from Appendix R. Deviations from Appendix R should be identified as early in the review process as possible, so that they may be resolved and all fire protection features be implemented by the time the plant is ready for fuel loading.

If you have any questions on this subject, please contact the NRC Project Manager for your facility.

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The reporting/record keeping requirements associated with Appendix R of 10 CFR 50 have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under approved number 3150-0011 which expires September 30, 1983. Comments on burden and duplication may be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Reports Management Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20503

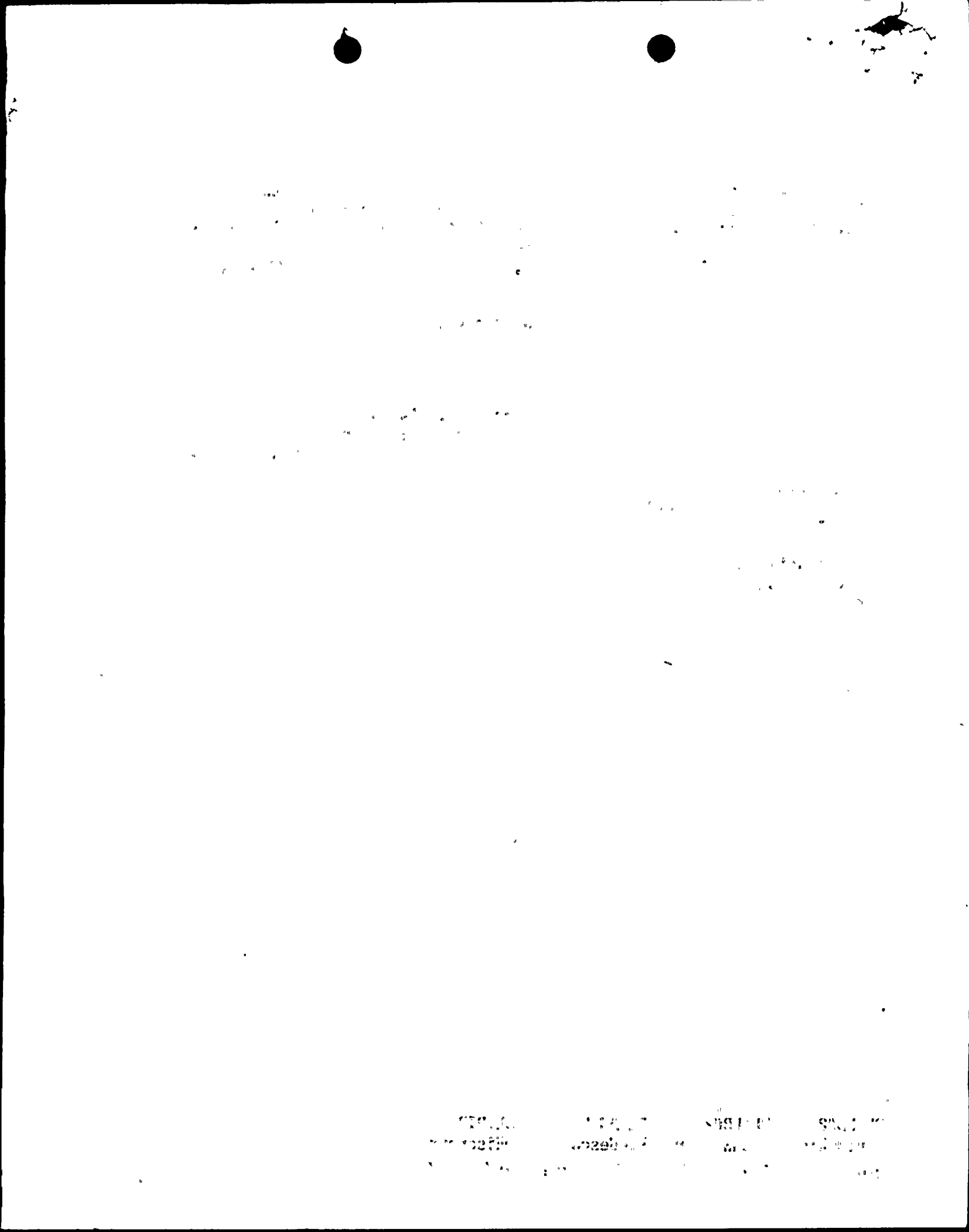
Sincerely,

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Notice of Fire Protection
Rule

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

OFFICE	DL:LB#2	DL:LB#2	DL:AD	DL:DIR			
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