

EVALUATION OF A REQUEST FOR EXTENSION  
OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-93  
WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (WNP-2)  
DOCKET NO. 50-397

Introduction

Construction Permit No. CPPR-93 was issued to the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) on March 19, 1973 for the WPPSS Nuclear Plant No. 2 (WNP-2) located on the Permittee's site in Benton County, Washington. In a letter dated December 28, 1976, WPPSS requested that the latest completion date for construction permit be extended from September 1, 1978 to December 1, 1981. WPPSS was granted such an extension in a letter dated August 29, 1978. The Permittee requested, in a letter dated September 4, 1981, that this latest completion date further be extended to February 1, 1984 and the earliest completion date for purposes of this extension is December 1, 1982.

Discussion

The Permittee's letter stated that the delay in completion of the WNP-2 was due the following factors:

1. Changes in the scope of the project including increases in the amount of material and engineering required as a result of regulatory actions, in particular those subsequent to the TMI-2 accident.
2. Construction delays and lower than estimated productivity, which resulted in delays in installation of material and equipment and delays in completion of systems necessitating rescheduling of pre-operational testing.
3. Strikes by portions of the construction work force.
4. Changes in plant design.
5. Delays in delivery of equipment and materials.

Factors 1, 2, 3 and 4 cited above as reasons for the construction delay are conditions beyond the control of the Permittee. However, they directly affected the Permittee's ability to schedule the previously planned construction program. The Permittee stated in a letter dated January 8, 1982 that Factor 2

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contributed about 20 months to the construction delay which included a 12 month NRC stop work order from June 1980 to June 1981 and a change in the construction completion contractor. The strike by portions of the construction work force lasted from June 1980 to November 1980. The Permittee further stated that factors 1, 4 and 5 contribute another 7 months to the construction delay. As a consequence, the staff believes that these factors constitute good cause for the requested extension. We have identified no significant hazards considerations in connection with the extension of the construction completion date.

The only environmental consequence of the proposed action will be the presence of the work force in the site area for a longer period. Since the staff previously determined (CP-FES, P IV-4) that the environmental impact of the presence of the work force in the site area was minimal, its continued presence in the area during the extension period would be environmentally benign, particularly since the site area will have made the environmental adjustments to the impacts previously evaluated by the staff as minimal.

In addition, we find that because the request is only for additional time to complete construction of a facility whose general design and design criteria have already been reviewed and approved, neither the probability nor the consequences of postulated accidents previously considered will be increased, nor will any safety margins associated with this facility be decreased. Therefore, we find that (1) this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by extension of the construction completion date, and (4) good cause exists for issuance of an Order extending the completion date.

Conclusions

Accordingly, issuance of an Order extending the latest completion date for construction of the WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2 to February 1, 1984 should be authorized.

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