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 MARTIN, J.B. Region 5 (Post 820201)
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 COUNCIL, W.G. Washington Public Power Supply System

SUBJECT: Forwards SALP rept 50-397/93-04 for period 920101-0228.
 Overall, SALP Board found performance of licensed activities
 at plant to be acceptable & directed toward safe facility
 operation.

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APR 14 1993

Docket No. 50-397

Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968
Richland, Washington 99352

Attention: Mr. W. G. Council
Managing Director

Subject: Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP)
Report No. 50-397/93-04

Gentlemen:

The NRC's Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) Board has completed its periodic assessment of the performance of your Washington Nuclear Project No. 2 (WNP-2) for the period from January 1, 1992 through February 28, 1993. An Overview of the Board's assessment is provided as Section II.A of the enclosed Initial SALP Report.

The performance of WNP-2 was evaluated in the functional areas of Plant Operations, Radiological Controls, Maintenance/Surveillance, Emergency Preparedness, Security, Engineering/Technical Support, and Safety Assessment/Quality Verification. The criteria used by the SALP Board in conducting this assessment of your performance are outlined in NRC Manual Chapter 0516, "Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance," dated September 28, 1990.

Overall, the SALP Board found the performance of licensed activities at WNP-2 to be acceptable and directed toward safe facility operation. The Board concluded, however, that the Supply System had not achieved substantial improvements in areas of weakness observed during the previous assessment period. Furthermore, the level of performance in the Engineering/Technical Support and Maintenance/Surveillance functional areas was observed to have declined from that of the previous assessment period.

The Board assigned a Category 3 rating to the Safety Assessment/Quality Verification functional area. The Board assigned an improving trend to this area based on the significant management changes and initiatives the Supply System has put in place. The Quality Assurance organization continues to make significant findings. The Board was concerned, however, with weaknesses in tracking and followup assessment of these findings; with line management's need to more effectively respond to areas of weakness; and with the need for senior management to assure quality related activities are effectively implemented.

Some improvement was observed in Plant Operations, with a Category 2 rating assigned to this functional area. However, the Board had concerns about

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declining performance of unlicensed equipment operators and the need for Plant Operations to increase their sense of plant ownership and to develop a more questioning attitude toward anomalies in plant performance. The Board emphasized that Operations needs to demonstrate strong leadership in assuring that the resources of other departments are effectively directed to safe plant operation and that lingering equipment problems are not tolerated.

The SALP Board also assigned a Category 3 rating to the Engineering/Technical Support functional area. The Board recognized several ongoing engineering initiatives, and increased involvement with outside organizations, although the results were not always effectively shared with other organizations to improve plant performance. The Engineering and Technical staffs did not consistently demonstrate that their foremost objective is to actively improve plant performance and safety by supporting plant operations. This weakness of engineering and technical support was reflected in several problems or events, some of a repetitive nature, which occurred during this assessment period and which illustrated a need for more thorough resolutions of technical issues.

The Maintenance/Surveillance functional area was assessed Category 2, Declining. This rating reflects the Board's concern that the Maintenance organization also needs to more actively improve plant performance and safety by supporting plant operations. This weakness was evident in plant events resulting from maintenance activities, in repeated equipment failures, and in increasing numbers of control room deficiencies and outstanding work items.

The SALP Board expressed concern across several areas, including Maintenance/Surveillance and Radiological Controls, regarding a need for additional emphasis on procedural adherence and, in some cases, on procedure quality. The Board was particularly concerned by the weaknesses in management oversight, supervision, and controls which permitted the events of January 21 through February 16 to occur. The Board encourages strong action by your management to avoid a recurrence.

Continued strength was noted in the Security area, and this was again rated Category 1. The Emergency Preparedness and Radiological Controls were both assessed Category 2.

In that your performance in the Engineering/Technical Support and Safety Assessment/Quality Verification functional areas was rated Category 3, you are required to provide a written response, within 30 days after our forthcoming meeting, which addresses your plans to improve performance in these functional areas. If desired, comments on other portions of the SALP report may be provided as appropriate.

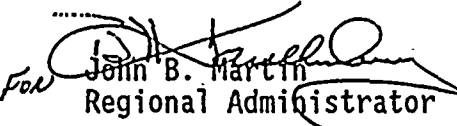
Based upon discussions with your staff, a management meeting to discuss the results of the SALP Board's assessment has been scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on April 27, 1993, at your Headquarters facility. Arrangements for this meeting will be discussed further with your staff in the near future.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter, the enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

The response requested by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,


John B. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
Initial SALP Report No. 50-397/93-04

cc w/enclosure:
G. C. Sorensen, Manager, Regulatory Programs
J. W. Baker, WNP-2 Plant Manager
M. H. Philips, Esq., Winston & Strawn
State of Washington
INPO



bcc w/enclosure:

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SALP Board Members and Attendees
SALP File
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Jo Bianchi

bcc w/o enclosure:

LFMB
Maurine Smith

REGION V

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4/14/93

*per verbal concurrence
10:50 AM, 4/14/93*
PJohnson
4/14/93

*per verbal concurrence
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