

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMWPPSS NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2DOCKET NO. 50-397ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuing an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 in response to a Washington Public Power Supply System (the licensee) request for the WNP-2 nuclear plant, located in Benton County, Washington.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirement of Section III.D.3 of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J for Type C testing of new containment purge supply and exhaust valves with metallic seats each refueling shutdown. It would extend the maximum interval for Type C testing from 24 months to 27 months for these valves. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's March 25, 1994, exemption request.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The licensee needs the proposed exemption because the present requirement forces the licensee to test the new metal-to-metal seated containment purge supply and exhaust valves at least every 24 months. Testing these valves every 27 months does not increase the risk to public health and safety and accommodates the unique WNP-2 refueling schedule.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would not adversely affect primary containment integrity. Thus, it would not increase the potential for radiological releases to the environment in the event of a severe plant transient or hypothetical accident, including a fuel handling accident or design basis accident. Calculated offsite radiological doses at the plant exclusion boundary and low population zone outer boundary will continue to meet 10 CFR Part 100 criteria.

The licensee indicated that industry experience shows the new valves are capable of maintaining design leakage requirements over an extended time. The licensee also indicated that they will require the replacement valves to meet even tighter permissible leakage limits. Extending the maximum allowable interval between tests to 27 months allows for variations in the approximately annual operating cycle length due to weather. Issuing this exemption will not increase accident probability or result in any environmental impacts beyond those evaluated in the WNP-2 Final Environmental Statement. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental

impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on March 30, 1994 (59 FR 14901). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action Any alternative with equal or greater environmental impact does not need to be evaluated since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the facility's environmental impact, and would result in a larger expenditure of licensee resources to test containment purge and exhaust valves.

Alternative Use of Resources This action does not use resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of the Washington Nuclear Project, Unit No. 2 dated December 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and consulted the Washington State official. The state official had no comments.



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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the March 25, 1994, request for exemption which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of May 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Theodore R. Quay

Theodore R. Quay, Director
Project Directorate IV-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation



11-11-11

May 19, 1994

DOCKET NO. 50-397

MEMORANDUM TO: Rules Review and Directives Branch
Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services
Office of Administration
FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is attached for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (5) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s): Time for submission of Views on Antitrust matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License. (Call with 30-day insert date).
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- Order.
- Exemption.
- Notice of Granting Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Issuance of Final Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Other: PLEASE NOTIFY WITH PUBLICATION DATE AND CITATION

Paul Kleene (504-1372) or Doris Foster-Curseen (504-1379)

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Attachment(s): As stated

Contact: See above

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