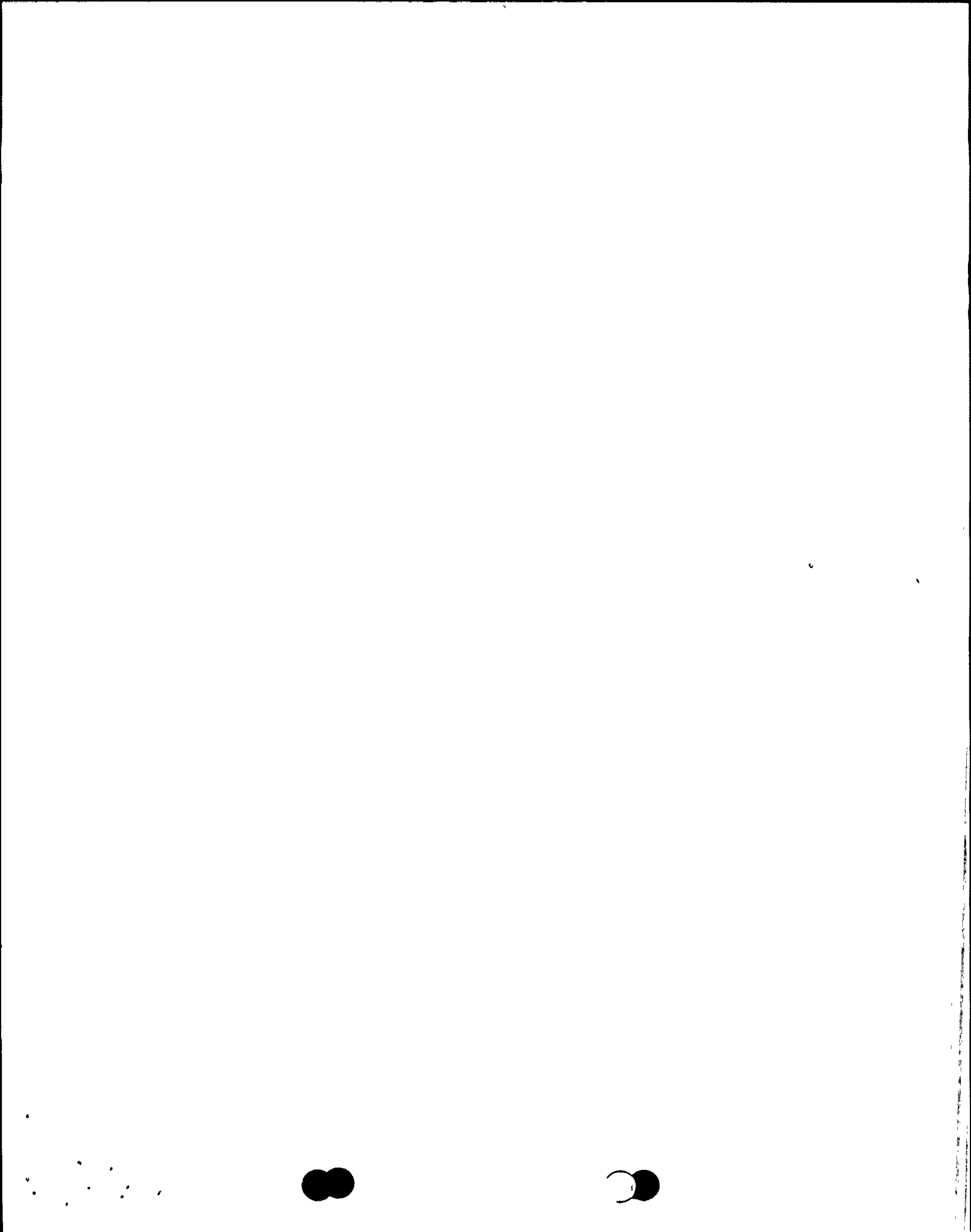


UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMNUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2DOCKET NO. 50-397NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21, issued to Washington Public Power Supply System, (the licensee), for operation of the Nuclear Project No. 2, located in Benton County, Washington.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

This Environmental Assessment is written in connection with the proposed core uprate for the Nuclear Project No. 2 in response to the licensee's application dated July 9, 1993, as supplemented by letters of October 9, and October 25, 1993, January 6, January 6, February 2, May 3, May 13, September 26, and October 12, 1994. The proposed action would increase the rated core power level for Nuclear Project No. 2 from the current level of 3323 Megawatts-thermal (Mwt) to 3486 Mwt. The Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS) power level would be increased accordingly. This uprate represents an authorized thermal power level increase of approximately 4.9 percent. This will require resetting of the safety relief valve setpoints to accommodate the slight operating pressure increase (less than 20 psi). Operating temperature will also increase slightly (less than 5 °F). The result of these changes will be an approximate 5 percent increase in rated steam flow. Plant instrumentation will be recalibrated to reflect the uprated power. The



licensee will implement these changes during the current refueling outage, which began on April 22, 1995.

These changes will be achieved by (1) increasing the core thermal power to increase steam flow, (2) increasing reactor pressure to ensure adequate turbine control margin, (3) not increasing the current maximum core flow, and (4) operating the reactor along higher flow control lines. The increased core power will be achieved by utilizing a flatter radial power distribution while still maintaining limiting fuel bundles within their constraints.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would increase the thermal output by 163 MWt, which corresponds to approximately 52 megawatts-electrical (MWe). This would provide additional electrical power to the grids which service the commercial and residential areas of the distribution utility.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

A slight change in the environmental impact can be expected for an increase in plant power level, but the effects were found to be minimal and did not alter the findings stated in NUREG-0812, "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Nuclear Project No. 2" (FES), December 1981.

The proposed core uprating is projected to increase the rejected heat by approximately 5 percent. However, the thermal discharges from the circulating and service water systems remain bounded by the values evaluated in the FES. Thus, the 5 percent increase in rejected heat has been evaluated and determined not to significantly impact on the quality of the human environment.



The licensing basis analyses related to radiological source terms were originally performed assuming a core power of 3486 MWt which corresponds to the proposed rerate conditions. The NRC review of these calculations was documented in NUREG-0892, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Operation of Nuclear Project No. 2." Additional assessments by the licensee related to the rerated conditions (power level and reactor coolant temperature) and other changes related to plant operation determined there would be no significant increase in the potential radioactive releases resulting from plant operation or design basis reactor accidents. In addition, no significant increases in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure would result from the proposed changes in operating conditions. Also, the proposed increase in the NSSS power involves no significant change in the amount of any non-radiological effluents that may be released offsite compared to those evaluated and approved in the FES.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that there is no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the amendment would not significantly reduce the environmental impact of plant operation and would restrict operation of the Nuclear Project No. 2 to the currently licensed power level, thereby reducing operational flexibility.



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Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Nuclear Project No. 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

By letter of September 26, 1994, Mr. Jason J. Zeller of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council of the State of Washington informed the staff that the State official had no comments.


FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated July 9, 1993, as supplemented by letters dated October 9, and October 25, 1993, January 6, January 6, February 2, May 3, May 13, September 26, and October 12, 1994, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of April 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
William H. Bateman, Director  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation





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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2

DOCKET NO. 50-397

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21, issued to Washington Public Power Supply System, (the licensee), for operation of the Nuclear Project No. 2, located in Benton County, Washington.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

This Environmental Assessment is written in connection with the proposed core uprate for the Nuclear Project No. 2 in response to the licensee's application dated July 9, 1993, as supplemented by letters of October 9, and October 25, 1993, January 6, January 6, February 2, May 3, May 13, September 26, and October 12, 1994. The proposed action would increase the rated core power level for Nuclear Project No. 2 from the current level of 3323 Megawatts-thermal (Mwt) to 3486 Mwt. The Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS) power level would be increased accordingly. This uprate represents an authorized thermal power level increase of approximately 4.9 percent. This will require resetting of the safety relief valve setpoints to accommodate the slight operating pressure increase (less than 20 psi). Operating temperature will also increase slightly (less than 5 °F). The result of these changes will be an approximate 5 percent increase in rated steam flow. Plant instrumentation will be recalibrated to reflect the uprated power. The

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licensee will implement these changes during the current refueling outage, which began on April 22, 1995.

These changes will be achieved by (1) increasing the core thermal power to increase steam flow, (2) increasing reactor pressure to ensure adequate turbine control margin, (3) not increasing the current maximum core flow, and (4) operating the reactor along higher flow control lines. The increased core power will be achieved by utilizing a flatter radial power distribution while still maintaining limiting fuel bundles within their constraints.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would increase the thermal output by 163 MWt, which corresponds to approximately 52 megawatts-electrical (MWe). This would provide additional electrical power to the grids which service the commercial and residential areas of the distribution utility.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

A slight change in the environmental impact can be expected for an increase in plant power level, but the effects were found to be minimal and did not alter the findings stated in NUREG-0812, "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Nuclear Project No. 2" (FES), December 1981.

The proposed core uprating is projected to increase the rejected heat by approximately 5 percent. However, the thermal discharges from the circulating and service water systems remain bounded by the values evaluated in the FES. Thus, the 5 percent increase in rejected heat has been evaluated and determined not to significantly impact on the quality of the human environment.



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The licensing basis analyses related to radiological source terms were originally performed assuming a core power of 3486 MWt which corresponds to the proposed rerate conditions. The NRC review of these calculations was documented in NUREG-0892, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Operation of Nuclear Project No. 2." Additional assessments by the licensee related to the rerated conditions (power level and reactor coolant temperature) and other changes related to plant operation determined there would be no significant increase in the potential radioactive releases resulting from plant operation or design basis reactor accidents. In addition, no significant increases in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure would result from the proposed changes in operating conditions. Also, the proposed increase in the NSSS power involves no significant change in the amount of any non-radiological effluents that may be released offsite compared to those evaluated and approved in the FES.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that there is no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the amendment would not significantly reduce the environmental impact of plant operation and would restrict operation of the Nuclear Project No. 2 to the currently licensed power level, thereby reducing operational flexibility.



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Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Nuclear Project No. 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

By letter of September 26, 1994, Mr. Jason J. Zeller of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council of the State of Washington informed the staff that the State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated July 9, 1993, as supplemented by letters dated October 9, and October 25, 1993, January 6, January 6, February 2, May 3, May 13, September 26, and October 12, 1994, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of April 1995.

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