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SUBJECT: Forwards insp rept 50-397/95-07 on 950306-27. No violations noted.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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JUN - 2 1995

EA 95-096

Washington Public Power Supply System
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SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-397/95-07

This refers to the special inspection conducted by Messrs. W. D. Johnson, J. F. Ringwald, and W. C. Walker of this office on March 6-27, 1995. In addition, further review, including followup of Augmented Inspection Team Report 50-397/95-13 was performed in the NRC offices through June 1, 1995. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Washington Nuclear Project-2 facility. At the conclusion of the on-site phase of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of the Supply System staff identified in the enclosed report. Findings of the in-office phase of the inspection were discussed with your staff on June 1, 1995.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. The inspection included review of recent operational events, observation of plant operations, and evaluation of various operational areas. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

Based on the results of this inspection, 10 apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C. An enforcement decision will not be made until sometime after the enforcement conference, as discussed below. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. Please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

The apparent violations described in this report indicate to the NRC that there are several areas of continuing serious concern. The area of procedure adherence has long been a historical problem at the site. The past corrective actions taken, including those following a significant violation addressed in Enforcement Action 93-191 of November 10, 1993, have not been effective in establishing a site culture of procedural compliance. Your casual approach

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The ninth apparent violation involved operators and engineers failing to declare an intermediate range monitor inoperable when substantial data indicated that it did not function properly, resulting in a failure to comply with the Technical Specification operability requirements. This case indicated a lack of a healthy questioning attitude by operators, engineers, and management and a willingness to accept an easy answer, which facilitated resumption of plant operations.

The tenth apparent violation involved the failure to initiate a problem evaluation request following a half scram. This example may indicate a reluctance to understand and address problems as they occur.

An enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations will be scheduled in the near future. The decision to hold an enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purposes of this conference are to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to point out any errors in our inspection report; and to provide an opportunity for you to present your proposed corrective actions. In particular, we expect you to address the continuing failures in the procedure compliance area and how the site culture will be transformed to one of procedural compliance; how operability determinations and their review and approval will be strengthened; how performance of the Operations Department will be improved such that it can exert effective leadership; and how the site attitude toward clearance orders will be improved. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: (1) the severity of the violations, (2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and (3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

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

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

toward the operability of an intermediate range monitor suggests that operators, engineers, and management did not regard intermediate range monitor indication failures as serious. The lack of a sense of ownership on the part of your Operations Department as evidenced by their apparent role as service provider and their susceptibility to being distracted by ancillary roles suggests that operators may not be able at times to devote their full attention to their primary responsibility to operate the facility safely. Repetitive problems in the clearance order program indicate that errors in clearance orders have not been taken seriously and corrective actions have been ineffective.

The first apparent violation involved deliberate operation of the reactor water cleanup system by a control room supervisor, contrary to the requirements of a procedure caution statement. This event caused significant NRC staff concern and resulted in performance of an investigation by the NRC Office of Investigations and in the dispatch of an Augmented Inspection Team to review the facts surrounding the event. The NRC Office of Investigations concluded that the control room supervisor did not deliberately violate plant procedures when he initially opened the reactor water cleanup system valve, but that he deliberately violated plant procedures after reviewing them with a reactor operator and then failed to close the valve or direct that it be closed.

The next three apparent violations involved three instances in which the requirements of your clearance order procedure were not followed. These failures included operators failing to place an electrical switch in the position identified in a clearance order to protect workers, a clearance order that failed to remove electrical power from components to be replaced, and operators not removing the fuse specified in a clearance order.

The fifth apparent violation involved your failure to maintain a lock-seal on a valve which your procedures required to be locked. While this event had minor technical safety significance, it was considered potentially significant because the plant staff did not adequately evaluate the root cause and, therefore, could not effectively take corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

The sixth apparent violation involved operators failing to operate the test lever specified in the surveillance test procedure for the main turbine, resulting in a turbine and reactor trip. This operator, and the supervisor who was involved, displayed a lack of appreciation for the requirements to perform self-checking and to follow procedures.

The seventh and eighth apparent violations involved two instances where operators entered operational modes without complying with certain Technical Specification limiting conditions for operation applicable to that mode. These instances indicated a lack of attention to detail and poor communications and teamwork.

Washington Public Power
Supply System

-4-

Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-397/95-07

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E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

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