UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 140 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-21

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2

DOCKET NO. 50-397

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 2, 1992, Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) submitted a request for changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) for Nuclear Project No. 2 (WNP-2). The proposed changes would make the surveillance criteria for the source range monitors (SRMs) consistent with an April 10, 1992, TS amendment.

2.0 EVALUATION

By letter dated January 21, 1992 (GO2-92-016), WPPSS submitted a request to revise TS 3/4.9.2, "Refueling Operations - Instrumentation," and the associated Bases of the TS regarding the requirements of the SRMs during core offloads. The request included a revision to the SRM count rates and associated signal-to-noise ratios to more conservative values, as recommended by General Electric (GE) in Service Information Letter (SIL) No. 478. By letter dated April 10, 1992, Amendment No. 102 to TS 3/4.9.2 was issued, approving the request and reflecting the recommendations in the SIL.

By letter dated September 2, 1992 (GO2-92-208), WPPSS submitted a request to revise the WNP-2 TS to make the SRM surveillance criteria in TS 3/4.3.7.6, "Instrumentation - Source Range Monitors," consistent with the changes made to TS 3/4.9.2 by Amendment No. 102 (and therefore, consistent with SIL No. 478). As in the January 21, 1992 request, the request reflects the recommendations in the SIL, which states that a signal-to-noise ratio of at least 20:1 is required to maintain the design basis level of uncertainty with a 0.7 count per second minimum count rate. This higher signal-to-noise ratio is required so that the SRM can effectively distinguish between actual counts and noise at lower count rates. The SIL also noted that a minimum SRM count rate of three counts per second was acceptable with a signal-to-noise ratio of 2:1. With this ratio, GE stated that there is a 95-percent confidence level that the indicated signal is correct. As found in the evaluation for Amendment No. 102, the proposed changes to the SRM count rate and associated signal-to-noise ratios are acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONCLUSION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Washington State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official has no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (60 FR 37101). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Date: August 23, 1995