

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed change would modify the TSs to reflect replacement of the existing reactor recirculation (RRC) flow control system with an adjustable speed drive (ASD) system. The current system relies on operation of the RRC pumps at two discrete speeds, using flow control valves to vary the flow in the RRC system. Following the design change, the flow control valves and the existing pump controllers would be deactivated in place. The existing analog-hydraulic flow control system will be replaced with dual channel, variable frequency ASDs and a digital recirculation flow control system that would vary RRC flow by varying RRC pump speed. The proposed TS changes would reflect the new RRC flow control system.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The licensee proposed the action to improve the reliability of flow control in the RRC system, and to provide increased operational flexibility during plant startup to avoid RRC pump cavitation and core instability restriction zones.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. The proposed change would not affect the probability of loss of the RRC pumps. Blocking open the RRC flow control valves would remove the potential failure of these valves from affecting operation of the RRC system, thereby reducing the probability of loss of RRC flow from this failure. The proposed change would allow removal of the hydraulic components for the RRC flow control valves and allow the licensee to cap eight containment penetrations. This in turn would allow removal of the 16 associated containment isolation valves. This reduces the number of potential leakage paths from the containment, and removes these potential leakage paths from affecting the consequences of postulated accidents. The proposed change also does not affect the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed action does not affect systems that generate or process non-radiological plant effluents, and has no other environmental

impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the Commission considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

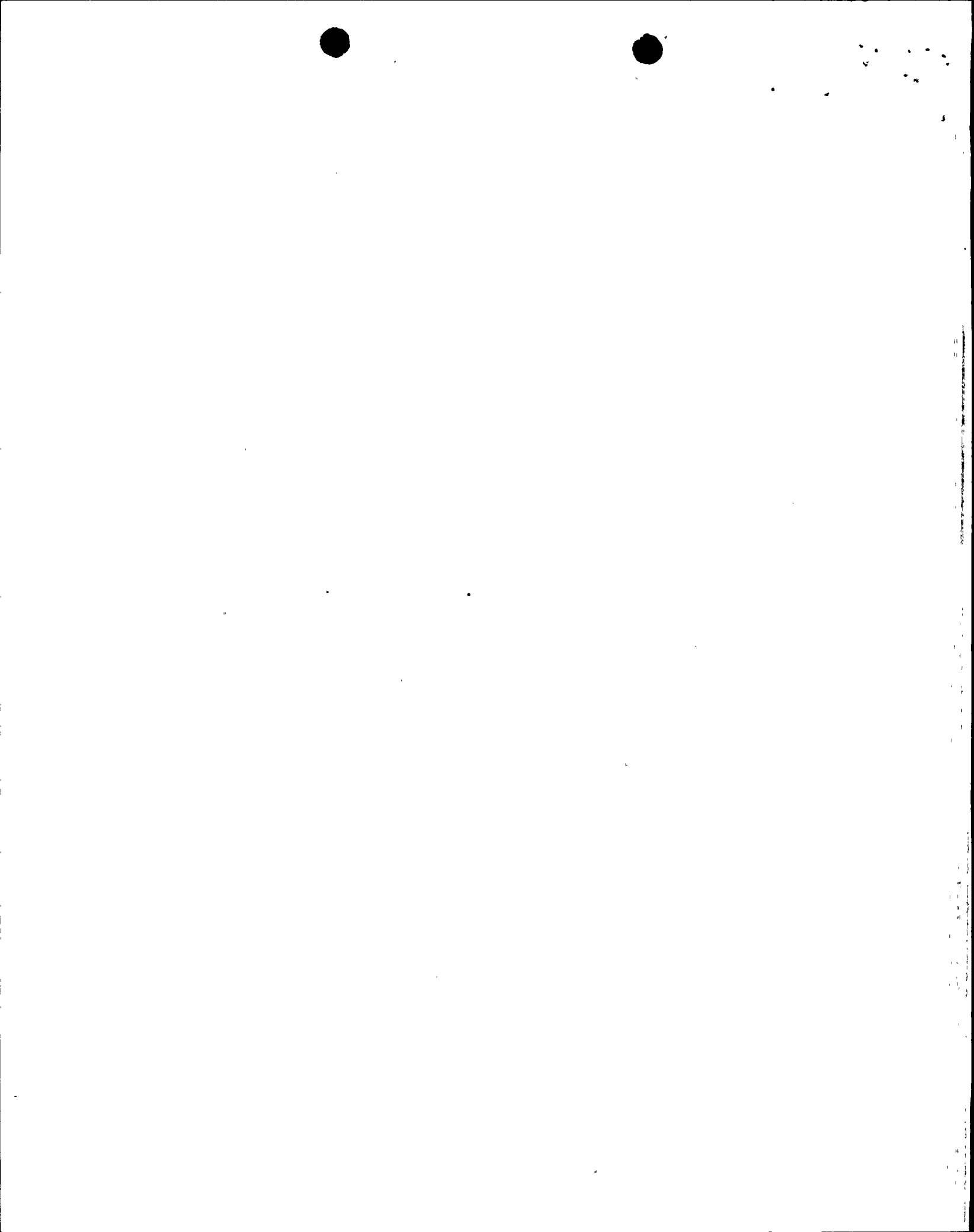
The proposed action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for WNP-2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 27, 1996, the Commission consulted with the Washington State official, Mr. R. R. Cowley of the Department of Health, State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. 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 October 26, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of March 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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