



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 146 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 April 24, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated May 29, 1996, the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS, or the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) (Appendix A to Facility Operating License No. NPF-21) for the Washington Nuclear Project No. 2 (WNP-2). The proposed changes would revise TS 5.3.1 "Fuel Assemblies" and TS 6.9.3.2 "Core Operating Limits Report" (COLR) to support Cycle 12 operation.

The May 29, 1996, supplemental letter provided additional clarifying information and did not change the original no significant hazards consideration determination published in the Federal Register on May 1, 1996 (61 FR 19326).

2.0 EVALUATION

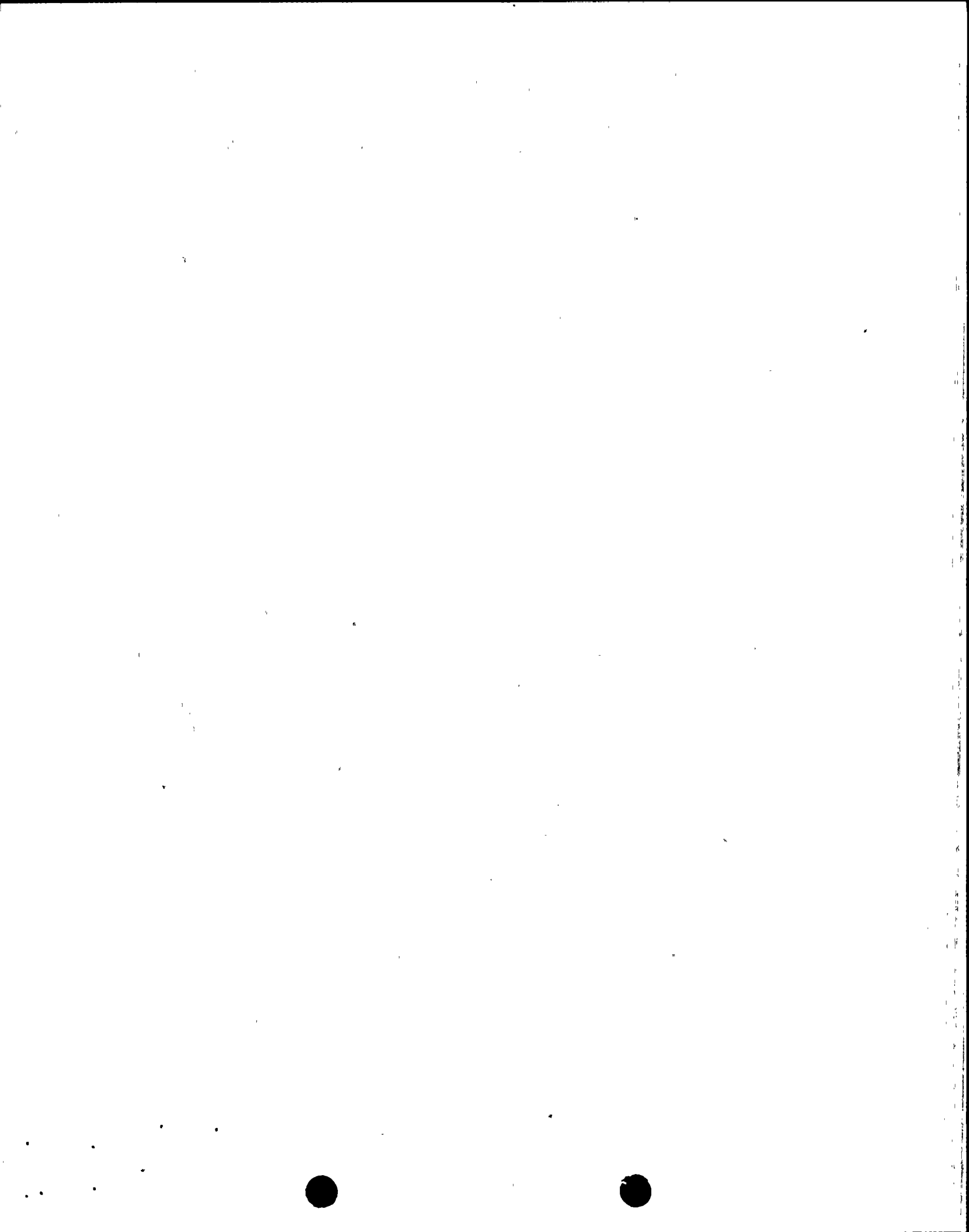
The licensee requested TS changes in accordance with 10 CFR 2.101 and 10 CFR 50.90. The revised Specifications were proposed as follows:

(1) Specification 5.3.1

The proposed revision makes the description of the fuel assemblies consistent with the description previously submitted as part of the WNP-2 Improved Technical Specifications and provides a clearer description of the fuel assemblies including potential lead fuel assemblies (LFAs) in non-limiting core positions. It is acceptable since the proposed revision is administrative in nature to reflect a clear description of the fuel assemblies. However, the maximum average enrichment, as weight percent UO_2 should be specified in this TS.

(2) Specification 6.9.3.2

The proposed revision deletes five approved analytical methodologies no longer pertinent to determining WNP-2 core operating limits, renumbers the list of references to reflect these deletions, and adds two references to methodologies relevant to the reload application. The proposed revision including deletions of irrelevant methodologies and renumbering the list of references is acceptable since it is



administrative in nature. The addition of staff-approved relevant methodologies (including topical report CENPD-300, which was approved by the staff on May 24, 1996) is acceptable because it provides an equivalent level of safety with respect to their use in analyzing the new ABB fuel for determination of operating limits. However, each approved topical report should also identify its respective supporting operating limit that is provided in the COLR.

Based on our review, we conclude that the proposed changes to these TS are acceptable for WNP-2 Cycle 12 and future cycle operation since the changes are administrative in nature. However, the record of the implementation of the ABB methodology for determining critical power for the resident SPC 9x9-9 fuel assemblies in the WNP-2 core should be available at WNP-2 for audit.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. 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 (61 FR 19326). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). This amendment also involves changes in recordkeeping, reporting or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, with respect to these items, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). 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: June 4, 1996

