UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

DOCKET NO. 50-397

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

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 (WPPSS, also the licensee) for operation of the WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2 located on Hanford Reservation in Benton County, Washington.

The proposed amendment would add a reactor water cleanup (RWCU) system high blowdown containment isolation trip function and associated Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) and surveillance requirements to Technical Specification (TS) Tables 3.3.2-1, 3.3.2-2, and 4.3.2.1-1.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant

reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does the change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

   The proposed amendment incorporates design features being implemented to reduce the detection and isolation time for a postulated High Energy Line Break (HELB) at the piping connection to the Reactor Water Cleanup (RWCU) system blowdown flow control valve. These design features significantly improve the capability to detect and mitigate the effects of the line break and are necessary to resolve Reactor Building environmental concerns. Since the design features are for accident detection and mitigation, they are not considered an accident initiator in the analyses and will not increase the probability of the accident. Moreover, the instrumentation design ensures that no single failure would preclude isolation of the HELB.

   The proposed amendment does not remove or modify any existing Technical Specification requirements, but imposes additional requirements related to the new "Blowdown Flow - High" trip function consistent with existing Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) and surveillance requirements, conservative analyses, and instrumentation setpoint methodologies. These requirements will maintain the Reactor Building environment consistent with the current analyses for the postulated RWCU HELB and provide assurance that the radiological effects of the line break are bounded by the accident analysis for the design basis Main Steam line break (MSLB) outside containment. The calculated offsite doses for the MSLB are less than 10% of the 10 CFR 100 guideline values and meet the acceptance criteria of Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800) 15.6.4.

   On the basis of the information presented above, it is concluded that the change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated?

   This proposed amendment incorporates design features to resolve Reactor Building environmental concerns that resulted from a postulated RWCU HELB that had previously not been fully analyzed. The design features will significantly improve the capability to detect and mitigate the effects of the HELB. The instrumentation design meets the single failure criterion, and a flow switch failure results in fulfillment of the accident safety function of RWCU system isolation. The instrumentation being installed does not represent a new or different kind than currently used in similar safety-related applications in the plant. Furthermore, the flow

instrumentation, piping/tubing, and associated supports have been evaluated to withstand the effects of the design basis earthquake (DBE) and the postulated HELB. An environmental qualification evaluation determined that the equipment required to mitigate the HELB or assure safe shutdown can withstand the adverse effects of the HELB.

The proposed amendment does not remove or modify any existing Technical Specification requirements or change the method of plant operation, but imposes additional requirements related to the new "Blowdown Flow - High" trip function consistent with existing LCO and surveillance requirements, conservative analyses, and instrumentation setpoint methodologies. These requirements will maintain the Reactor Building environment consistent with the assumptions used in current analyses for the postulated RWCU HELB and provide assurance that the radiological effects of the line break are bounded by the accident analysis of the design basis MSLB outside containment.

On the basis of the information presented above, it is concluded that the change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Does the change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

This proposed amendment incorporates design features being implemented to reduce the detection and isolation time for a postulated RWCU HELB. The design change complies with applicable codes and standards to meet the safety-related function objective. The instrumentation design meets the single failure criterion, and the flow instrumentation, piping/tubing, and associated supports have been evaluated to withstand the effects of a DBE, and the postulated HELB. Furthermore, an environmental qualification evaluation determined that the equipment required to mitigate the HELB or assure safe shutdown can withstand the adverse effects of the HELB.

The proposed amendment does not remove or modify any existing Technical Specification requirements, but imposes additional requirements related to the new "Blowdown Flow - High" trip function consistent with existing LCO and surveillance requirements, conservative analyses, and instrument setpoint methodologies. These requirements will maintain the Reactor Building environment consistent with the new analyses for the postulated RWCU HELB and provide assurance that the radiological effects of the line break are bounded by the accident analysis for the design basis MSLB outside containment. The calculated offsite doses for the MSLB are less than 10% of the 10 CFR 100 guideline values and meet the acceptance criteria of Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800) 15.6.4.

On the basis of the information presented above, it is concluded that the change does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of

written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By July 29, 1996 , the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available 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. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding;

(2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free

telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to William H. Bateman, Director, Project Directorate IV-2: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to M. H. Phillips Jr., Esq., Winston & Strawn, 1400 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005-3512, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated April 25, 1995, which is 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 21st day of June 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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