

June 5, 19

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Washington Public Power Supply System
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 96-03, "POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING WATER REACTORS" FOR WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WPPSS) NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2 (WNP-2) (TAC NO. M96175)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

In a May 13, 1997, letter to the NRC staff, you committed to two actions requested by the staff in an April 11, 1997, letter which approved your request to defer installation of high capacity passive emergency core cooling system suction strainers until the Spring 1998 refueling outage. One of these actions is:

- (1) Perform an inspection of the drywell to verify that insulation is not damaged and is properly installed and that any insulation that is damaged or is not properly installed is repaired or replaced. The inspection should be reasonably thorough but may be limited based on your knowledge of the present condition of the insulation and ALARA considerations.

As a point of clarification, you stated that damaged or improperly installed insulation will be "evaluated and repaired as necessary". The staff suggests that consideration be given in evaluating any insulation found to be discolored since the discoloration may be due to conditions (water leakage, high temperature aging) which could make the insulation more brittle and thus, more easily damaged and capable of forming smaller, more easily transported, pieces.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1362.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

cc: See next page

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