

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	
WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY)	Docket No. 50-397
SYSTEM)	
)	
WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2 (WNP-2))	

EXEMPTION

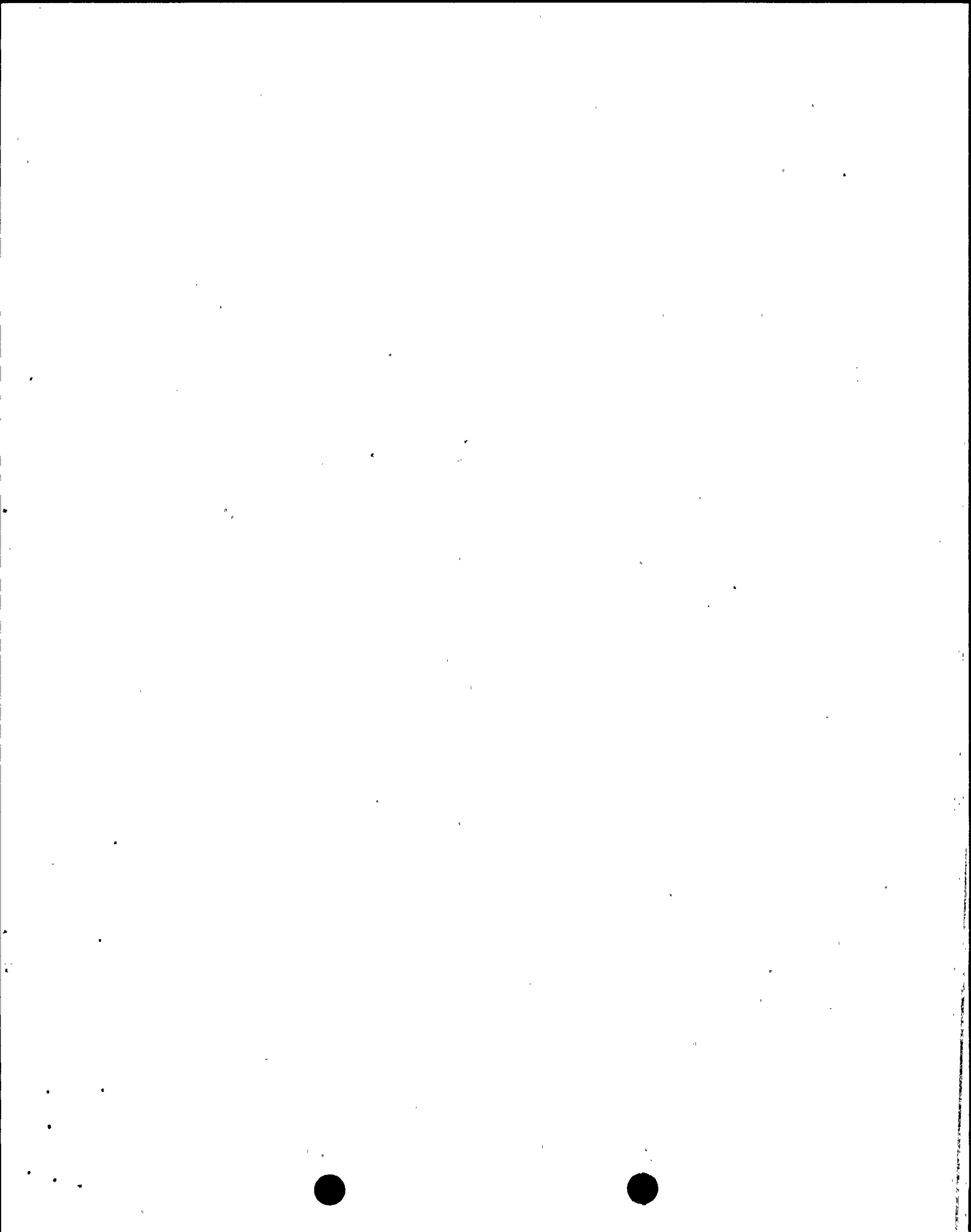
I.

Washington Public Power Supply System (the Supply System or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-21, which authorizes operation of the Washington Public Power Supply System Nuclear Project 2 (WNP-2). The facility consists of a boiling water reactor at the licensee's site in Benton County, Washington. The operating license provides, among other things, that WNP-2 is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

II.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1), each licensed operator is required to successfully complete a requalification program developed by the licensee that has been approved by the Commission. This program is to be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. In addition, pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2), each licensed operator must also pass a comprehensive requalification written examination and an annual operating test.

By letter dated May 7, 1999, the Supply System requested an exemption under 10 CFR 55.11 from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2). The schedular exemption requested would extend the completion date for the administration of the annual operating test



for the WNP-2 requalification program from October 23, 1999, to February 12, 2000, because the scheduled examination time coincides with the plant refueling outage. The requested exemption would constitute a one-time extension of the annual operating test requirement of the requalification program.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 55.11 states that, "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and are otherwise in the public interest."

III.

In support of its request for exemption, the Supply System indicated that the licensed operators at WNP-2 will continue to participate in the ongoing requalification training program. The Supply System further indicated that due to the two extended shutdowns, the annual operating test would have to be conducted on overtime. The exemption would eliminate the need to conduct the annual operating tests on overtime.

The NRC staff finds the one-time exemption will allow additional licensed operator support during the current refueling outage, which will provide a safety enhancement during plant shutdown operations, and post-maintenance testing and eliminate the need to conduct annual operating tests on overtime. The affected licensed operators will continue to demonstrate and possess the required levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to safely operate the plant throughout the extension period via continuation of the current satisfactory licensed operator requalification program. In meeting the requirement for the administration of an annual operating test, the current plant refueling outage could be prolonged without a net benefit to safety, and would otherwise have a detrimental effect on the public interest.

IV.

The Commission has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, granting an exemption to the Washington Public Power Supply System from the requirements in 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest.

Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Washington Public Power Supply System an exemption on a one-time only basis from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2), to allow the Washington Public Power Supply System Nuclear Project 2 current annual operating examination to be extended until February 12, 2000.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has also determined that the issuance of the exemption will have no significant impact on the environment. An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was noticed in the Federal Register on (64 FR 37173).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 14th day of June 1999

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*For previous concurrences see attached ORC

/s/
Bruce A. Boger, Director
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

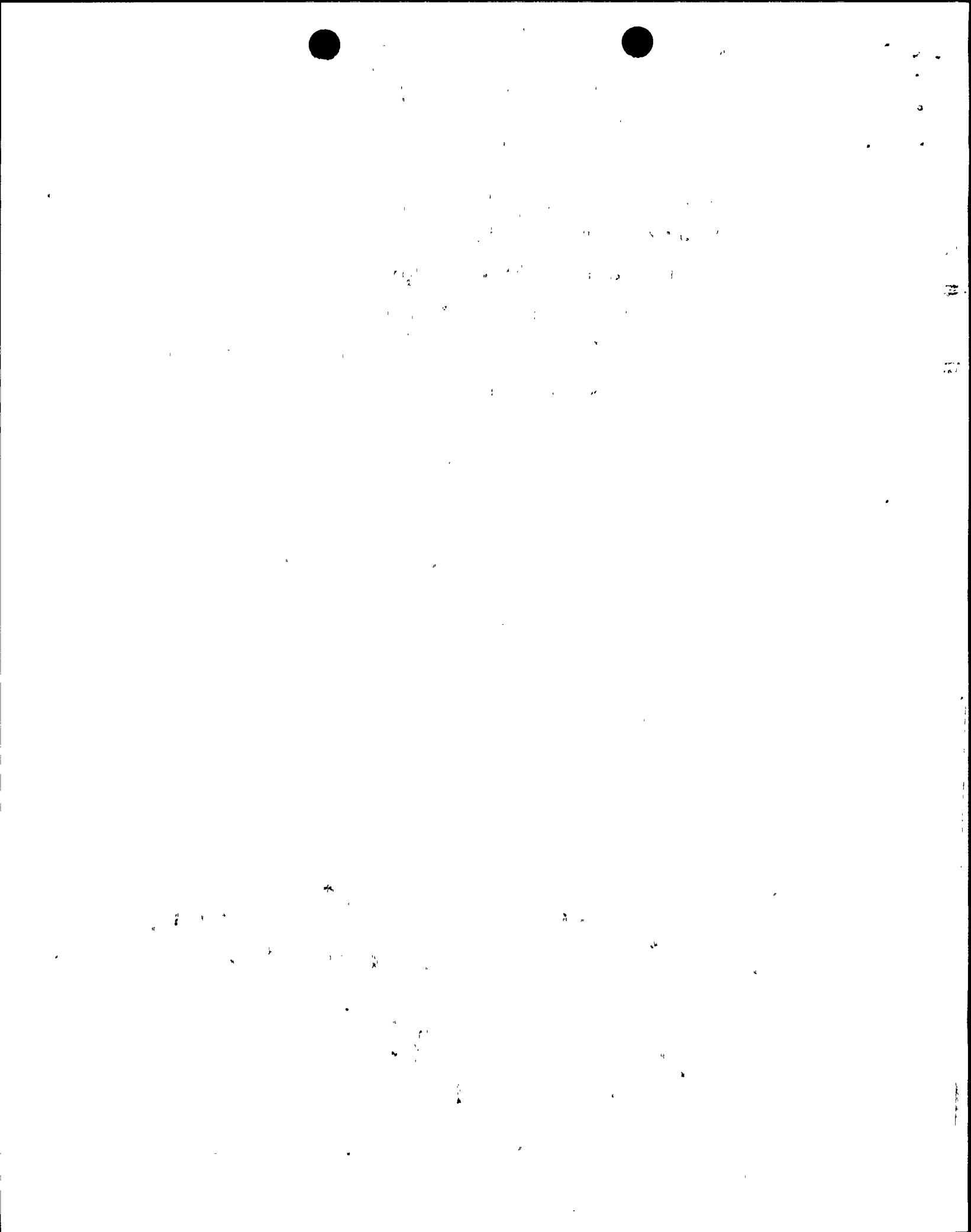
no legal objection

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IV.

The Commission has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, granting an exemption to the Washington Public Power Supply System from the requirements in 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest.

Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Washington Public Power Supply System an exemption on a one-time only basis from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2), to allow the Washington Public Power Supply System Nuclear Project 2 current annual operating examination to be extended until February 12, 2000.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has also determined that the issuance of the exemption will have no significant impact on the environment. An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was noticed in the Federal Register on July 9, 1999 (64 FR 37173).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 14th day of July 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Bruce A. Boger, Director
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation