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Washington, D.C. 20555

In the Matter of Puget Sound Power & Light Company, et al.
(Skagit Nuclear Power Project, Units 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. STN 50-522 and STN 50-523

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is an affidavit from Jacques B. J. Read regarding recent A6 aircraft crash experience. This affidavit was prepared by Dr. Read as a result of SCANP's allegations that the A6 aircraft has experienced an increased crash rate in recent years and, therefore, the Staff's crash rate assumption in the Skagit aircraft risk assessment may not be reasonable or conservative. See letters from Roger M. Leed to Richard L. Black, dated May 30, 1979 and July 7, 1979. After discussing this matter with the Licensing Board, the Staff agreed to obtain updated information from the Navy to determine whether its assumption regarding the crash rate should be modified to reflect actual A6 crash experience in recent years (Tr. 12,137-12,143).

The NRC Staff requested this information and obtained from the Navy Safety Center data regarding the gross inflight crash rate of A6 aircraft for the years 1968 through 1978. As indicated in the affidavit, the data reflects that the A6 crash rate has declined in recent years. Accordingly, Dr. Read is of the opinion that the Staff's previous assumption of a crash rate of 10^{-4} per hour, which was based on the peacetime crash rate of all U.S. combat aircraft, is still appropriately conservative in light of the actual A6 crash experience for the reasons set forth in the affidavit.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Black
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: w/encl.
Service List

POOR ORIGINAL

1268 292
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