

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

June 25, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-187

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Washington Public Power Supply System
Washington Nuclear Project No. 2
Docket No. 50-397
Benton County, Washington

Subject: ALLEGATIONS REGARDING IMPROPER POSTWELD HEAT TREATMENT OF REACTOR FEEDWATER PIPE WELD - POSSIBLE COMPLAINT TO CONGRESSMEN

NRC Region V has received allegations regarding the application of excessive and non-uniform temperatures in the post weld heat treatment (PWHT) of a safety related reactor feedwater pipe weld at WNP-2. The alleger further stated that recording equipment was manipulated to indicate heat treatment was properly performed.

NRC investigation has, to date, not substantiated the allegations, although other significant quality problems have been identified with post weld heat treatment operations. NRC RV is considering independent metallographic examination of two suspect welds to determine if the welds were subjected to excessive and non-uniform temperatures.

The PWHT contractor's attorney has contacted NRC RV to state that the contractor feels he has not had an opportunity to confront his accuser (the alleger) and that this violates his constitutional rights. The contractor intends to write Senators Jackson and Magnuson concerning this violation. The contractor's attorney explained that he, personally, recognizes the need to provide anonymity to allegers, but that his client still intends to contact his Senators. The attorney further stated that the contractor feels that the allegations may not have been made in good faith and are intended to harass the contractor.

No press release has been made as of this date by either the licensee or the Regional Office.

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