



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 4, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Stolz, Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch #1, DPM

FROM: R. E. Jackson, Chief
Geosciences Branch, DSS

SUBJECT: ADDITION GEOLOGY QUESTIONS

PLANT NAME: Skagit Nuclear Power Project, Units 1 & 2

LICENSING STAGE: CP

DOCKET NUMBERS: STN 50-522/523

RESPONSIBLE BRANCH: LWR-1

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE: Answer Questions

REVIEW STATUS: Awaiting Applicant Responses

Attached are ten requests for additional information. Nine of the questions (323.86 through 323.94) were developed by the U. S. Geological Survey while the tenth (323.95) was prepared by the Geosciences Branch as an expansion of the USGS's question 323.88. These joint USGS-NRC requests for additional information have been developed in response to new information provided to the NRC on October 10, 1979 by the U. S. Geological Survey regarding geological and seismological aspects of the northern Puget Sound area.

The USGS questions were transmitted to the NRC by letter of December 10, 1979. In order to expedite transmittal of these questions to Puget Sound Power and Light Company for their action, the Geosciences Branch, with the concurrence of the USGS, has made minor corrections/additions to the cover letter, to several of the questions, and to the appended references. These corrections/additions consist of the following:

1. Transmittal letter and Question No.1 (323.86) -- the stated Bethesda, Maryland meeting date of October 25, 1979 was in error and has been changed to the correct date - October 26, 1979.
2. Cole Mountain in Question No. 7 (323.92) has been corrected to Coal Mountain.
3. Assignment of NRC numbers 323.86 through 323.94 to the USGS questions.

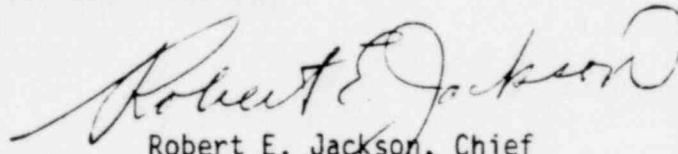
1788 058

8001220127

4. Addition of a title to the last reference cited by the USGS. The reference "Whetten, J. T., Dethier, D.P., and Carroll, P. R., in press" has been revised to read "Whetten, J. T., Dethier, D. P., and Carroll, P. R., Preliminary Geological map of the Clear Lake NW Quadrangle, Skagit County, Washington, in press." As a note, we have been informed by the U. S. Geological Survey that this report should be issued in January, 1980.

Responses to these questions and evaluation of the answers will require expenditure of considerable manpower and funds both for the applicant and the NRC-USGS. In addition to office-related efforts, considerable field work (detailed mapping, trenching, and perhaps drilling as well as geophysical investigations) will most likely be required of the applicant. Weather conditions in the site area will hamper the applicant's investigations. One or more USGS-NRC field trips and several meetings will most likely be necessary. We estimate at least 9 to 12 months of effort before completion of a review of the applicant's responses by the NRC-USGS.

Since independent field work in the site region, both by the USGS and probably others, will continue for some time beyond the above 9 to 12 month period, there is a high likelihood that other questions may be raised requiring additional work by the applicant. At the present time we see no short-term resolution of the geologic-seismologic issues confronting the siting of the Skagit Nuclear Power Plant. We plan to request from the U. S. Geological Survey as soon as possible, a clarification of the overall intent of the last set of questions and for guidance as to the likelihood that resolution of the questions will allow the USGS to complete their review.


Robert E. Jackson, Chief
Geosciences Branch
Division of Systems Safety

Attachment:
As Stated

cc: w/o attachment
D. Vassallo
R. Mattson

cc: w/attachment
S. Varga
I. Peltier
S. Treby
R. Black
D. Swanson
J. Knight
R. Jackson

L. Reiter
H. Lefevre
S. Wastler
R. Morris, USGS
J. Devine, USGS

1788 059