



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

March 20, 1980

Roger M. Leed, Esq.
1411 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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

Dear Mr. Leed:

This is in response to your letter to me dated February 15, 1980, in which you requested the NRC Staff to undertake a reanalysis of the A-6 aircraft accident rate in light of its recent accident frequency, in order to determine the adequacy of the previous Staff analysis of military aircraft hazards to the proposed Skagit Nuclear Power Plant.

As the attached memorandum from Jacques B. J. Read of the Accident Analysis Branch indicates, the Staff has been aware of the recent crashes of the A-6 aircraft. The memo further indicates that the facts reported in the Seattle Times article and the Staff's understanding of the recent increased deployment of A-6 aircraft in response to the "Iranian Crisis" do not change the Staff's analysis with respect to the hazard posed at the Skagit site from A-6 aircraft. Since the vast majority of recent A-6 crashes involve aircraft carrier operations, they have no relevancy to the crash rate to be expected from operations that would involve low-level training missions from Whidbey Island. Accordingly, we see no need at this time to reanalyze this potential hazard to the proposed Skagit Nuclear Power Plant. However, the Staff is monitoring A-6 information and other pertinent data to determine whether a reassessment of this hazard is warranted. We will also look at the results of Senator Jackson's investigation into the recent A-6 crashes to determine if a reanalysis should be undertaken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard L. Black".

Richard L. Black
Counsel for NRC Staff

Attachment: As stated

cc w/attach: Service List

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