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

May 30, 1980

Valentine B. Deale, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. Frank F. Hooper
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
School of Natural Resources
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Mr. Gustave A. Linenberger
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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:

In accordance with the "Schedule of Reports From Applicants and the NRC Staff" issued by the Licensing Board on April 18, 1980, the NRC Staff hereby submits its second status report with respect to the Skagit application and continuing review efforts by the Staff and USGS personnel.

Since the submission of our first status report on April 15, 1980, neither the NRC Staff nor the USGS has progressed in their respective review functions for the Skagit application. Furthermore, no meetings have taken place or been scheduled between the Applicants and the Staff to discuss the outstanding NRC/USGS questions on geology/seismology. Accordingly, the Staff is unable to predict a reasonable date for rescheduling hearings on these matters.

As the Board is aware, the Applicants are presently giving consideration to amending their application to change the proposed site of the Skagit Project to the Hanford Reservation. It appears that considerable review and exploratory work has been accomplished and is presently continuing to identify a suitable site for the Skagit Project at Hanford. (See attached affidavit of James E. Mecca to Applicants' Reply In Opposition to SCANP's Motion to Dismiss the Application, dated May 23, 1980). In light of these efforts by the Applicants and other recent developments that may affect the suitability of the proposed Skagit site, and the apparent

delay that is occurring in the continuing licensing review of the Skagit application, the Staff is reviewing its previous testimony and the position taken therein regarding the issue of alternative sites to determine whether the Staff should move the Board to reopen the record on this issue. We will keep the Board informed of our conclusion in this regard and any other developments that may affect the resumption of hearings in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Black
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Service List