

Washington Public Power Supply System

P.O. Box 968 3000 George Washington Way Richland, Washington 99352 (509) 372-5000

August 8, 1984
G03-84-500

Docket No.: 50-508

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. G.W. Knighton, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 3
SUBDUCTION OF JUAN DE FUCA PLATE
SUPPLY SYSTEM POSITION

Reference: NRC Letter, dated May 3, 1983, Thomas M. Novak
to R.L. Ferguson, "Request for Additional
Information on WNP-3 Safety Review"

In the reference, NRC transmitted several questions to the Supply System regarding the potential for and possible magnitude of a large earthquake in the subduction zone beneath WNP-3.

The attached Supply System position paper on the subduction of the Juan de Fuca plate, assessing the present state-of-the-art, focuses attention on the fundamental question; is subduction proceeding seismically or aseismically? As indicated in the position paper, the Supply System believes that the weight of currently available evidence favors aseismic subduction, although recognizing that more work needs to be done to resolve this issue.

In a telephone conversation between the NRC (B.K. Singh and J.K. Kimball) and the Supply System (D.W. Coleman) on August 1, 1984, it was agreed that the Supply System would submit 40+ copies of this letter and attached position paper. It was also agreed that four (4) copies each of four of the reports referenced in the position paper would be sufficient.

A major objective of the August 23, 1984 meeting is to obtain NRC agreement to review the Supply System responses, in accordance with the schedule and plan for the resolution of the subduction issue. This objective was also conveyed to Messers. Kimball and Singh during the August 1, 1984 telephone conversation. The Supply System would like to resolve this issue as soon as possible, independent of the present extended construction delay.

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Director of NRR

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Subduction of Juan de Fuca Plate

The Supply System will be prepared to discuss the position paper with you in the meeting planned for August 23, 1984. We will also be able to discuss our plans for investigation and resolution of the subduction issue. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. D.W. Coleman, WNP-3 Licensing Project Manager, at (206) 482-4428 extension 5436.

R B Sorensen

for G. C. Sorensen (MD 340)
Manager, Regulatory Programs

GCS/DWC/jms
Attachment

cc: JA Adams - NESCO (763)
ST Algermisson - United States Geological Survey
EM Burton - Pacific Power & Light
TE Bushnell - Portland General Electric
HA Coombs - Geologic Advisory Board
RS Crosson - Geologic Advisory Board
GA Davis - Geologic Advisory Board
RD Hill - Puget Sound Power & Light
P. Inman - Washington Water Power
JA Kelleher - Geologic Advisory Board
JK Kimball - NRC
I. Mermelstein - Ebasco Services, Inc.
V. Nerses - NRC
J. Porrovecchio - Ebasco Services, Inc.
NS Reynolds - Bishop, Liberman, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds
BK Singh - NRC
J. Sluka - Ebasco Services, Inc.
RB Smith - Geologic Advisory Board
D. Smithpeter - BPA
F. Swearngin - BPA (399)
DD Tillson - Geologic Advisory Board
AA Tuzes - Combustion Engineering, Inc.
BD Withers - Portland General Electric
H. Worchel - Ebasco Services, Inc.
US NRC, Document Control Clerk
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