



file

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



August 27, 1976

Robert M. Lazo, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

In the Matter of
Washington Public Power Supply System
(WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 4)
Docket No. 50-513

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of Applicant and NRC Regulatory Staff in the Form of a Supplemental Initial Decision, dated August 27, 1976, in the above referenced Docket.

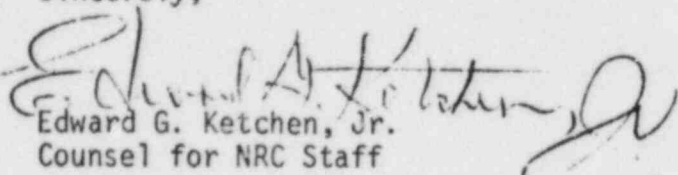
While the Staff believes that the enclosed proposed findings will complete the record in this proceeding with respect to all outstanding issues except those associated with the spent fuel management issues and ultimate cost benefit balance, we wish to inform the Board that, as a result of recent reviews of certain previously approved ECCS evaluation models, it appears that B&W's use of a nucleate boiling heat transfer correlation after CHF is first predicted may not conform to the requirements of Appendix K. This is similar to the matter discussed in the Staff's brief filed August 12, 1976, in the St. Lucie, Unit 2 proceeding with respect to Combustion Engineering models. The Staff is pursuing its review of B&W models and if this deficiency is confirmed, the Staff will work with B&W to assure that it is rectified so that a corrected evaluation can be provided to the Board promptly, and in any event before the completion of the open items relating to consideration of fuel reprocessing and waste management. Consequently, this item should have no delaying effect on the Board's ability to complete the record of the entire proceeding.

Similarly, the Staff is expecting to receive shortly further information from the U. S. Geological Survey relating to seismology in the State of Washington. At such time as we receive and assess this information, we

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will inform the Board as to whether there is any effect on the seismic design criteria for WNP-4. Our consideration of this matter should be concluded well before the completion of the waste disposal and fuel reprocessing issues.

Sincerely,


Edward G. Ketchen, Jr.
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure

cc (w/encl):

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Docketing and Service Section