



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

File Center

December 22, 1999

Mr. J. V. Parrish  
Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02,  
"LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" -  
WNP-2 (TAC NO. MA5863)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in this GL.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (2) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

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- (3) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, you provided a letter dated November 18, 1999, for WNP-2. Associated with your response was a request for a license amendment to change your TS to provide for testing as described in the GL. The NRC staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that you have provided the requested information and an acceptable TS change request. In addition, you have committed to test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989 until your TS amendment is issued. Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for WNP-2. The TS change will be reviewed as a separate, plant-specific action under TAC No. MA7227. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1424.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2  
 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
 Division of Licensing Project Management  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

cc: See next page

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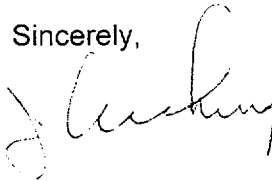
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Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
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cc: See next page

WNP-2

cc:

Mr. Greg O. Smith (Mail Drop 927M)  
Vice President, Generation  
Energy Northwest  
P. O. Box 968  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

Mr. Albert E. Mouncer (Mail Drop 1396)  
Chief Counsel  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

Ms. Deborah J. Ross, Chairman  
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
P. O. Box 43172  
Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

Mr. D. W. Coleman (Mail Drop PE20)  
Manager, Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

Mr. Paul Inserra (Mail Drop PE20)  
Manager, Licensing  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Harris Tower & Pavilion  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064

Chairman  
Benton County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 69  
Prosser, Washington 99350-0190

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 69  
Richland, Washington 99352-0069

Mr. Rodney L. Webring (Mail Drop PE08)  
Vice President, Operations Support/PIO  
Energy Northwest  
P. O. Box 968  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

Thomas C. Poindexter, Esq.  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Mr. Bob Nichols  
Executive Policy Division  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, Washington 98504-3113