

ENERGY NORTHWEST

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July 18, 2000
GO2-00-127

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: **WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE TIME REGARDING WNP-2
INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-397/00-10**

Reference: Letter, dated June 27, 2000, LJ Smith (NRC), to JV Parrish (Energy Northwest),
"WNP-2 Inspection Report No. 50-397/00-10"

On April 2 through May 20, 2000, the NRC completed a safety inspection at the WNP-2 facility. The referenced letter documented the results of this inspection. The NRC noted four issues in this report. Of the four issues, three were determined to involve violations of NRC requirements, but because of their very low safety significance the violations were not cited. One of the NCVs involves the failure to identify an unreviewed safety question (USQ) through the 10 CFR 50.59 process.

Regarding the NCV that involves an USQ, we agree that the issue is of very low safety significance but we are interested in further reviewing the possible precedent setting impacts of not contesting this violation. As such, we respectfully request additional response time from the standard 30 days beyond the date of the referenced inspection report.

JEO

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We are requesting additional time to schedule meetings with industry experts and the NRC to gain a greater understanding of the issues involved. One issue of concern to us relates to our process of identifying bounding analyses and how to determine when an USQ exists in future safety evaluations.

We are uncertain of the exact length of time required to schedule the necessary meetings. Thus we cannot specifically quantify the extension request, but we are committed to an expeditious resolution of this matter.

We will work closely with the NRC and keep you apprised of our schedule as it develops.

Should you have any questions or desire additional information pertaining to this request, please call me or PJ Inserra at (509) 377-4147.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D.W. Coleman".

DW Coleman
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Mail Drop PE20

cc: EW Merschoff - NRC RIV
JS Cushing - NRC NRR
NRC Sr. Resident Inspector - 927N

DL Williams - BPA/1399
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