

# **ENERGY NORTHWEST**

P.O. Box 968 ■ Richland, Washington 99352-0968

August 17, 2000  
GO2-00-143

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: **WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21  
NRC TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION  
REPORT NO. 50-397/00-07**

Reference: Letter dated June 16, 2000, DA Powers (NRC) to JV Parrish (Energy Northwest), "NRC's WNP-2 Triennial Fire Protection Baseline Inspection Report No. 50-397/00-07"

The subject NRC Inspection Report identified a Non-Cited Violation relative to compliance with the 1974 National Fire Protection Association Code 72E for the placement of automatic fire detectors. The violation was cited for the failure to meet the Code requirement in some areas of the facility.

Although not specifically addressing the Code deviation related to each beam pocket detection scheme, the WNP-2 FSAR does address this Code deviation in general terms. Such Code deviations are permissible in accordance with the facility license basis as stated in BTP 9.5-1 Appendix A and deviations of this nature do not require prior approval by the NRC.

Energy Northwest has concluded the existing detector placement for the identified areas was adequately justified and reviewed by qualified staff. Therefore, Energy Northwest has determined the existing design relative to detector placement remains acceptable and will not be altered. Although the historical documentation could have more clearly addressed all of the pertinent design issues specific to each location, the design requirements relative to beam pockets was included and documented as acceptable for one of the areas, which is similar to the others and is considered a bounding justification. Therefore, Energy Northwest plans to enhance the justification for the Code deviation relative to the placement of detectors in beam pockets for the areas addressed in the referenced Inspection Report in an effort to avoid a repeat issue during future inspections.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D.W. Coleman".

DW Coleman  
Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Mail Drop PE20

cc: EW Merschoff - NRC RIV  
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