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 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 RENBERGER, D.L. WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 PARR, O.D. LIGHT WATER REACTORS BRANCH 3

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON GEOLOGICAL STUDIES STATUS, STATING GENERIC REPT EXPECTED IN FALL 1979. REQUESTS MEETING TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR SUBMITTING REPTS OF STUDIES AS WELL AS MECHANISM FOR IDENTIFICATION & REVIEW OF STUDIES IN HANFORD AREA.

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 TITLE: PSAR/FSAR AMDTS AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE.

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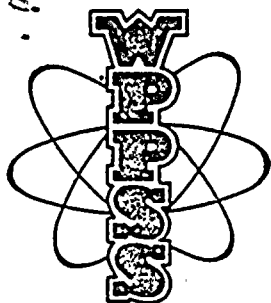
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April 27, 1979

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Olan D. Parr, Chief
Light Water Reactors, Branch #3

Subject: UPDATE OF GEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Dear Mr. Parr:

Beginning in late 1976, WPPSS initiated studies aimed at gathering more information with respect to the December 14, 1872 North Cascades Earthquake. As you are aware, during 1977 that event was the subject of numerous meetings between the NRC, ACRS, and Pacific Northwest Utilities. In spring 1977, major expansions of the programs were undertaken by WPPSS to include not only work on the December 14, 1872 earthquake but also additional studies on northwest regional tectonics; more detailed studies on the geologic boundaries between the North Cascades and the Columbia Plateau; and additional geologic studies in the immediate area surrounding the DOE Hanford reservation where the WNP-1, 2 and 4 sites are located. In October 1977, results of completed studies were submitted as Amendment 23 to the WNP-1/4 PSAR (Docket 50-460, 50-513). These data were discussed further at an ACRS subcommittee meeting in October 1977 in Portland, Oregon and with the ACRS full committee in Washington, D. C. in December 1977. We noted at these meetings that some of our studies would be continuing beyond the issuance of the ACRS letter on the 1872 earthquake and committed to supplying results to the NRC staff as individual studies were completed and when the WNP-1/4 FSAR was prepared. These studies included the collection and interpretation of additional geophysical data; regional remote sensing evaluation; field geologic investigations on the Straight Creek Fault and other parts of the central and eastern Cascades; micro-earthquake analysis and age dating studies in the Hanford region; and a kinematic structural analysis of folding in the Columbia Plateau.

All of the studies initiated by WPPSS during the 1976-1978 time period have now reached the stage of finalization that lead us to believe it would be in the best interest of all concerned to place this information more formally in the record. Accordingly between now and early fall 1979 we are proposing to continue submitting individual reports to the NRC staff as they are completed for information. By early fall 1979 we propose submitting a generic report that will place in perspective all of the new geologic work completed by WPPSS since submittal of Amendment 23, WNP-1/4

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Mr. Olan D. Parr
Page Two


PSAR, October 1977. We further propose to integrate all of the information presented in Amendment 23, WNP-1/4 PSAR, the newer information that has become available since October 1977 and any additional information that may become available in a new Chapter 2.5 for the WNP-1/4 FSAR which could be submitted sometime after January 1980.

In a related matter, the federal government (DOE) is giving strong consideration to siting a nuclear waste repository on the Hanford reservation. Although work has been underway for some time, the program has been accelerated significantly during the last 18 months with the result that numerous geological reports dealing with the Hanford area and the Columbia plateau are being generated by DOE contractors, subcontractors, the USGS and the state geological surveys of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. In light of the fact that these reports could bare new information relative to our Hanford site, we are reviewing them as they come to our attention. It has been our experience to date that six months to a year may lapse between the time work is completed on a given study and the time a report is approved by DOE and placed in the public record. Although these studies are being done for a federal agency (DOE) and reports are therefore readily available to the NRC staff, we are uncertain as to how the staff is made aware of their existence in a timely manner that is appropriate to our licensing schedule.

We consider that it would be beneficial for us to meet with appropriate management and technical members of the staff to discuss: 1) our plans for submitting the results since October 1977 of WPPSS sponsored studies that were initiated as part of the regional 1872 earthquake program; and 2) the mechanism for identification, submittal, and review of DOE sponsored geologic studies in the Hanford area.

I have requested that Mr. Sorensen of my staff contact you to make arrangements for such a meeting.

Very truly yours,



D. L. RENBERGER
Assistant Director
Technology

DLR:DDT:edh

