

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT OF CLARK COUNTY

A CUSTOMER-OWNED ELECTRIC AND WATER UTILITY

1200 FORT VANCOUVER WAY • P. O. BOX 1626 • VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON 98663 • PHONE 699-3000

November 9, 1979

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 "H" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Commissioner Hendrie:

The Clark County Public Utility District has a vital concern in the delay of the reopening of licensing procedures for nuclear plant operation. We feel that it is most appropriate that all safety matters be considered but feel that there is an inappropriate delay in restarting licensing hearings for these plants. The cost of delay is resulting in inadequate power supply, that is impacting business and every rate payer in our area.

In the case of the Washington Public Power Supply System #2 project at the Hanford reservation, we find that the plant delay will cost nearly a million dollars a day. Because of the financial hardship that would be inflicted on the customer-owned utilities of the Northwest and their customers, we feel that it would be appropriate that the NRC shift enough personnel and spend enough money to open relicensing.

We are aware of the strong criticism the Kemeny Committee has made and of their recommendation to abolish and reform the NRC. We feel that this is a decision that the appropriate legislative bodies will have to consider. At the same time, it is not appropriate that the NRC not take action while the issues are being debated.

We must be able to rely on developing these plants. They have been under construction for the last nine years. Construction will be concluded on all five projects during the next six to seven years. We are interested in the safe and economical operation of these plants and feel that restarting licensing will help achieve both objectives. A moratorium to study the issues is not solving the energy problem for the country.

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Commissioner Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
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The members of the Washington Public Power Supply System are able to assist and supply information in order to bring the process to a complete and timely conclusion. Please contact Neil Strand, Managing Director of the Supply System, for any possible help that WPPSS can provide. As a member of the Supply System, we add our management direction to the Supply System for the construction and operation of the plants.

We are keenly aware that we are to provide safe nuclear plants for our customers but we also must be able to provide energy in an economical and timely fashion.

Sincerely


Dale R. Merrell
General Manager

ELM/pw

cc: Commissioners
Neil Strand
Congressional Representatives of the N.W.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY)
SYSTEM)

(WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 2))
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Docket No.(s) 50-397.0L

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document(s) upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.712 of 10 CFR Part 2 - Rules of Practice, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this

27th ~~day~~ day of NOV 1979.

Peggy T. Downing
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY)
SYSTEM)

(WPPS Nuclear Project No. 2))
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Docket No.(s) 50-397 OL

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