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 FACIL:50-397 WPPSS Nuclear Project, Unit 2, Washington Public Powe 05000397
 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 MATLOCK,R.G. Washington Public Power Supply System
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 ENGELKEN,R.H. Region 5, San Francisco, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Interim rept re sway brace bracket failures, initially reported 800820. Caused by poor weld quality, lack of fusion & undersized welds. Testing will resume pending design & fabrication of new test fixtures for revised test angle.

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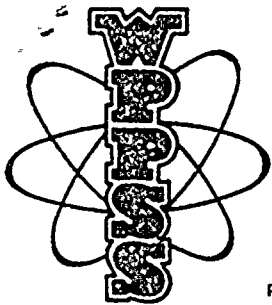
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Washington Public Power Supply System
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February 5, 1981
G02-81-19

Docket No. 50-397

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
Suite 202, Walnut Creek Plaza
1990 North California Boulevard
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Attention: Mr. R. H. Engelken, Director

Gentlemen:

Subject: WPPSS NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2
REPORTABLE DEFICIENCY - 10CFR50.55(e)
SWAY BRACE BRACKETS

References: (a) Telecon, QA2-80-309, dated 8/20/80
Subject: Notification of Reportable 10CFR50.55(e)
Condition
(b) G02-80-208, dated 9/19/80
Subject: Reportable Deficiency
(c) G02-80-271, dated 11/26/80
Subject: Reportable Deficiency

Your staff has been notified and kept abreast of the progress of our evaluation of the reportable 10CFR50.55(e) condition relating to sway brace brackets per references (a) through (c). The following update is submitted for your information.

The testing of the sway brace brackets, size 15, 25 and 40, commenced on January 22, 1981. The limited destructive testing completed to date, at the calculated most critical angle, has had only limited success. Failures, below proof load, have occurred on all size brackets tested. As expected the failures occurred as a result of poor weld quality i.e. lack of fusion and undersized welds. Although the program has not been completed or fully evaluated, it appears that we do not have a significant failure rate with the size 15 brackets, that we do have a significant failure rate with the size 40 bracket, and that no judgement can be made at this time regarding the size 25 bracket.

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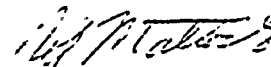
WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM
Docket No. 50-397

Based upon the limited destructive testing conducted to date, it has become prudent to stop the testing of the brackets at the calculated most critical angle and to resume testing at some lesser angle which will be more representative of our design and installations. Testing at this lesser angle will permit acceptance of the brackets by limiting the angles at which they may be utilized and/or by derating allowable loads. This is compatible with our original approach per reference (c).

The test program will resume as soon as we can design and fabricate new test fixtures to accommodate the revised test angle.

A follow-up or final report, as appropriate, will be submitted by April 30, 1981.

Very truly yours,



R. G. MATLOCK
Program Director, WNP-2

RGM/RPS/ib

Attachment as stated

cc: WS Chin - BPA	AD Toth - NRC Site
ND Lewis - EFSEC, Olympia	JJ Verderber - B&R, NY
RE Snaith - B&R, NY	E. Wood - NUS Corporation
V. Stello - NRC	WNP-2 Files