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 SCHWENCER, A. Licensing Branch 2

SUBJECT: Submits response to NRC questions arising from review of  
 draft Sierra Geophysics rept, "Paleomagnetism of  
 Pre-Missoula Graves From Corehole PM-2 on Southeast  
 Anticline, Harford Site, WA."

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## Washington Public Power Supply System

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July 13, 1982

G02-82-604

SS-L-02-CDT-82-084

Docket No. 50-397

Mr. A. Schwencer, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 2  
Division of Licensing  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Schwencer:

Subject: NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2  
REVIEW OF DRAFT SIERRA GEOPHYSICS REPORT  
ENTITLED, "PALEOMAGNETISM OF PRE-MISSOULA  
GRAVELS FROM COREHOLE PM-2 ON THE SOUTHEAST  
ANTICLINE, HANFORD SITE, WASHINGTON

Reference: Letter, A. Schwencer to R. L. Ferguson,  
same subject, dated June 15, 1982

We have reviewed the questions posed by C. Ostrowski of your staff regarding the subject report and hereby provide responses to your itemized comments:

1. Is a comment not a question.
2. Is a comment not a question.
3. Paleomagnetic samples were not collected above 64 feet or below 84 feet in PM-2 because no fine-grained sediment was present at those depths; specifically, there was not enough matrix in the coarse gravels present above or below these depths. For the same reason, no paleomagnetic samples were collected between depths of about 76 and 80 feet. In addition, no paleomagnetic samples were collected above 64 feet, because no core was recovered from PM-2 above this depth.

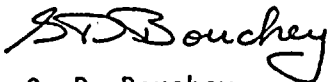
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4. It is difficult to collect many 1-inch-diameter samples from a single level in a 2-inch-diameter drillcore. Moreover, no statistics are given in the text for the results from any given horizon; therefore, it is not at all clear what statistic this comment refers to. It was shown by Watson about 20 years ago that to derive a paleomagnetic direction with the smallest half-angle of the cone of 95% confidence and with the minimum number of samples, the optimal sampling strategy is to collect one sample per horizon, as was generally done in PM-2.
5. The PM-2 core was not oriented with respect to North. However, the PM-2 paleomagnetic directions are sufficiently precise that the paleomagnetic results could be used to orient much of this core. The declination data provided in the Appendix give relative azimuths which can be compared within any given core run. For example, Figures 4 and 5 of the report show antiparallel groupings of directions from Runs 2 and 3, respectively. If the PM-2 core had been oriented with respect to true north, these groupings would probably be aligned along a North-South axis, as for fully-oriented samples from surface outcrops.

Very truly yours,



G. D. Bouchey  
Deputy Director, Safety and Security

WAK/tmh

cc: R Auluck - NRC  
WS Chin - BPA  
R Feil - NRC Site  
I Alterman- NRC  
C Ostrowski-NRC

