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SUBJECT: Commits to having operator present during any diesel generator testing in parallel w/network power source to manually switch control sys to normal standby mode within 10 S if LOCA occurs during testing.

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Washington Public Power Supply System

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Docket No. 50-397

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: 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
STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR AUTOMATIC
RETURN TO STANDBY MODE

The Supply System has implemented a design change which provides automatic separation of the Diesel Generators (DG) from the network if a LOCA occurs when the DG is paralleled with the network for testing. This design change also provides automatic switching of the speed control mode between the droop mode and the isochronous mode. During preoperational testing, it was discovered the automatic speed control mode switching did not work correctly.

The Supply System has been informed that the NRC position on automatic return to Standby mode requires that the Speed control system be returned automatically to the "Isochronous" mode and that the Excitation control system be returned to the "Unit" mode which are their normal standby modes.

The Supply System pointed out that the DG's will perform their function satisfactorily if called on to carry the ESF loads no matter which position the Speed and Excitation mode controls are set. The speed droop in the parallel control mode is only 3% at full load. The reactive current droop on the excitation control is also only 3% for generator rated reactive current. If left in the "parallel" mode selection position, the Speed control system will restore speed to 97% speed at full load in less than two (2) seconds and the excitation control system will restore voltage to 97% in less than two (2) seconds at rated generator reactive current load. All the ESF loads will perform satisfactorily under the above power supply conditions.

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A. Schwencer

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STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR AUTOMATIC RETURN TO STANDBY MODE

In conclusion, the Supply System commits to have an Operator present during any DG testing in parallel with the network power source who will manually switch these control systems to their normal standby mode within ten (10) seconds if a LOCA occurs during testing. Additionally, Plant Technical Specifications do not allow testing of more than one diesel generator at a time; therefore, if a LOCA occurs during a diesel generator test, at least one unit will be in the "Standby" Isochronous Mode.

The Supply System commits to either implement an automatic control mode selection design at the first refueling outage or provide full technical justification to the NRC for not implementing it.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr. P. L. Powell, Manager, WNP-2 Licensing.

Very truly yours,


G. C. Sorensen, Manager
Regulatory Programs

DTT/tmh

cc: R Auluck - NRC
WS Chin - BPA
S Rhew - NRC
AD Toth - NRC Site

