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ACCESSION NBR: 8711170252 DOC. DATE: 87/11/09 NOTARIZED: NO DOCKET #
 FACIL: 50-397 WPPSS Nuclear Project, Unit 2, Washington Public Powe 05000397
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SUBJECT: Requests review of VIPRE computer code be completed in FY88
 & resubmittal of Vols 1-3 & revised version of Vol 4. Effort
 required to perform BWR review expected to be less than for
 PWR review.

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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

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November 9, 1987

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Mr. James A. Norberg
Special Assistant, Reactor System Branch
Division of Engineering and System Technology
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Norberg:

The Utility Group For Regulatory Applications (UGRA) was chartered in 1979 in order to submit the RETRAN computer code to the NRC and request its generic review. The UGRA had 20 utility members sponsoring the RETRAN review, a chairman, and an executive committee. A Safety Evaluation Report for RETRAN was issued by the NRC on September 4, 1984.

On December 17, 1984, the UGRA submitted the VIPRE Computer Code to the NRC requesting a generic review (see Attachment 1, letter from J. A. Blaisdell to H. R. Denton). It was then agreed to perform the review in two parts. The first part is for PWR applications, and the second part is for BWR applications. The submittal addressing PWR applications has been approved and the NRC Safety Evaluation Report was issued on May 1, 1986. The Topical Report review fee of \$20,000 was paid in its entirety at this time. The BWR UGRA Committee now formally requests the continuation of the VIPRE review (i.e., for BWR applications of VIPRE) and is ready to support the NRC in this review. The 25 utilities sponsoring the VIPRE review via UGRA and the BWR Committee members are listed in Attachment 2. It is our opinion that this review should be exempt from additional topical report review fees since the Attachment 1 letter requests a review for both PWR and BWR applications. The Topical Reports which were transmitted in 1985 support the use of VIPRE for both applications. It might also be noted that a significant amount of the VIPRE coding which was evaluated during the PWR review is used in BWR calculations. Therefore, the effort required to perform the BWR review is expected to be less than that for the PWR review.

The generic review of the VIPRE computer code for BWR applications is needed for licensing submittals (e.g., reload safety analysis, reload thermal-hydraulic analysis, core safety limits calculations). The first BWR plant using VIPRE in a licensing submittal is WNP-2 of Washington Public Power Supply System. The anticipated date of submittal is June 1989. Therefore, it is requested that the NRC review of VIPRE be completed in FY 1988.

As noted in the letters in Attachments 3 and 4, the VIPRE computer code documentation (EPRI NP-2511-CCM, Volumes 1 through 4) was submitted to the NRC in support of the PWR portion of the VIPRE review. This documentation supports

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the use of VIPRE for both PWR and BWR applications. Only Volume 4 (Applications) was revised during the PWR portion of the VIPRE review in order to include additional VIPRE analyses and to modify Section 6.7 (Transient CHF Calculations).

At your request, we will resubmit the appropriate number of copies of Volumes 1 through 3 and the revised version of Volume 4.

Please inform us as soon as possible regarding your determination of the applicability of the Topical Report review fee. If you have any questions or comments, you may contact me at (509) 372-5195 or Bob Vosburgh at (509) 372-8734.

Sincerely,



Y. Y. Yung, Chairman
BWR UGRA Committee
Washington Public Power Supply System
P.O. Box 968, MD 520
Richland, WA 99352

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cc: M. W. Hodges, Chief of Reactor System Branch
J. A. Blaisdell, Chairman, UGRA Executive Committee
Sponsoring Utilities in Attachment 2

ATTACHMENT 1

