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SUBJECT: Submits response to NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging
of ECC Suction Strainers by Debris in BWRs."

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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

P.O. Box 968 • Richland, Washington 99352-0968

June 25, 1998
GO2-98-108

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: **WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21, RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 96-03, "POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING WATER REACTORS"**

- References:
- 1) NRC Bulletin 96-03, dated May 6, 1996, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling Water Reactors"
 - 2) Letter, GO2-96-217, dated November 4, 1996, JV Parrish (SS) to NRC, "Response to NRC Bulletin 96-03, Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling Water Reactors"

In Reference 1 the Staff requested that the Supply System implement appropriate measures to ensure the capability of the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) to perform its safety function following a loss of coolant accident (LOCA). The Staff also requested that the Supply System provide a report to the Staff within 30 days of completion of all requested actions, confirming completion and summarizing any actions taken. The Supply System informed the Staff in Reference 2 of our intention to comply with the requested actions of NRC Bulletin 96-03. This letter provides the requested 30 day report.

As discussed in Reference 2, the Supply System has focused on three strategies to resolve the concerns raised in Bulletin 96-03. The first and foremost is in the installation of large capacity passive ECCS suction strainers. These strainers were installed during the recent 1998 Spring refueling outage, and provide the necessary margin to ensure debris loadings that occur on the strainers during a design basis LOCA will not cause a loss of net positive suction head for the ECCS.

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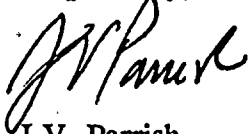
RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 96-03

The second strategy is to continue to perform periodic vacuuming of sediments in the suppression pool (currently on a four year interval), and to perform periodic cleanliness inspections of the ECCS suction strainers and the suppression pool. Cleanliness inspections have been performed during each of the past three years. The frequency will be re-evaluated based on the results of the next cleanliness inspection, currently scheduled for the WNP-2 1999 refueling outage. Vacuuming of the suppression pool is also scheduled during the 1999 refueling outage.

Lastly, the Supply System maintains a Foreign Material Control Program which helps to ensure the containment drywell and suppression pool areas are maintained free of debris that could clog ECCS suction strainers.

These actions are responsive to the concerns raised in Bulletin 96-03, and provide sufficient assurance that the ECCS at WNP-2 will function properly and safely during a design basis LOCA. The Supply System appreciates the support of members of the Staff which contributed to the successful and timely installation of the new large capacity strainers.

Respectfully,



J.V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Mail Drop 1023

REB


cc: EW Merschoff - NRC RIV
KE Perkins, Jr. - NRC RIV, Walnut Creek Field Office
C Poslusny, Jr. - NRR
NRC Sr. Resident Inspector - 927N
DL Williams - BPA/399
PD Robinson - Winston & Strawn

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF BENTON)

Subject: Response to NRC Bulletin 96-03

I, J. V. PARRISH, being duly sworn, subscribe to and say that I am the Chief Nuclear Officer for the WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM, the applicant herein; that I have the full authority to execute this oath; that I have reviewed the foregoing; and that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief the statements made in it are true.

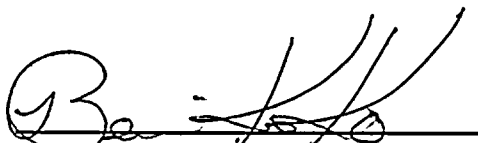
DATE 25 June, 1998



J. V. Parrish
Chief Nuclear Officer

On this date personally appeared before me J. V. Parrish, to me known to be the individual who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he signed the same as his free act and deed for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

GIVEN under my hand and seal this 25 day of June 1998



Notary Public in and for the
STATE OF WASHINGTON

Residing at Kennewick, WA

My Commission Expires 4/28/02

