

## REGULATORY INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (RIDS)

SUBJECT: Requests that subject TS amend dtd 980717 be processed in exigent fashion so as to reasonably minimize time period during which WNP-2 is operating outside of literal compliance w/TS associated w/LCO 3.8.4.

**NOTES:**

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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

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July 28, 1998

GO2-98-135

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Gentlemen:

Subject: **WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21,  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING  
EXIGENT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT TO  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENT  
3.8.4.7**

- References:
- 1) Letter GO2-98-125, JV Parrish (SS) to NRC, "Request for Enforcement Discretion for Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 3.8.4.7," dated July 16, 1998
  - 2) Letter GO2-98-128, JV Parrish (SS) to NRC, "WNP-2, Operating License NPF-21, Exigent Technical Specification Amendment Request to Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 3.8.4.7," dated July 17, 1998
  - 3) Letter WH Bateman (NRC) to JV Parrish (SS), "Notice of Enforcement Discretion for Nuclear Project Number 2 (WNP-2) (TAC NO. MA2281) (NOED 98-6-012)," dated July 17, 1998

By letter dated July 16, 1998 (Reference 1) the Supply System requested that the NRC exercise enforcement discretion to allow WNP-2 to not comply with the actions required in Technical Specification (TS) Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.8.4.7 for Class 1E 125V battery E-B1-2. The Supply System stated that it would be preferable to rely on the demonstrated capability of this battery to perform its intended function rather than performing an unnecessary plant shutdown. By letter dated July 17, 1998 (Reference 2) the Supply System submitted an exigent TS amendment request that would revise the SR for battery E-B1-2 on a one-time basis. As discussed with the NRR Project Manager (C. Poslusny) on July 27, 1998, the Supply System is submitting supplemental information on the reason why Reference 2 was submitted in an exigent fashion.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING EXIGENT TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SURVEILLANCE  
REQUIREMENT 3.8.4.7**

Page 2

During a recent inspection at WNP-2, the NRC identified that the procedure for conducting a modified performance test to include a 6 second peak discharge rate was not prepared to fully support Improved Technical Specifications (ITS) implementation. On July 15, 1998 the Supply System determined that the verbatim requirements of SR 3.8.4.7 had not been fulfilled within the Frequency plus the allowed extension time specified in the SR for battery E-B1-2. In response to the NRC finding, the Supply System promptly determined that the battery needed to be declared inoperable. Battery inoperability requires an orderly plant shutdown following a prescribed TS allowed outage time. The Supply System requested and received enforcement discretion (Reference 3) to avoid an unnecessary plant shutdown.

Prior to the implementation of Improved Technical Specifications (ITS), the performance test (vice the modified performance test which includes a 6 second peak discharge) was allowed to satisfy the service test surveillance requirements once every 60 months. ITS was implemented at WNP-2 over a year ago (March 10, 1997) and involved changes in more than eight hundred surveillance procedures. The subject missed surveillance could not have otherwise been averted based on the large number of surveillance procedures that were modified as part of the ITS implementation, the fact that the SR which was missed involved a subtle change to previous requirements, and human errors are sometimes unavoidable.

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Part 50.91 the following provides justification for an exigent amendment request: a situation exists that causes WNP-2 to be outside of literal compliance with requirements in the Technical Specifications; a determination of no significant hazards consideration has been made; the situation could not have otherwise been avoided; and a timely amendment request has been submitted. Therefore exigent circumstances exist. Additionally, the NRC enforcement policy contained in NUREG-1600 (Rev 1) "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions," dated May 1998, states that the issuance of enforcement discretion would be for the brief period of time necessary to process an emergency or exigent TS change. The Supply System requests that the subject TS amendment (Reference 2) be processed in an exigent fashion so as to reasonably minimize the time period during which WNP-2 is operating outside of literal compliance with the plant Technical Specification associated with LCO 3.8.4.

Should you have any questions or desire additional information regarding this matter, please call me or Mr. PJ Inserra at (509) 377-4147.

Respectfully,



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