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SUBJECT: Discusses engineering support of operation, plant.

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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

P.O. Box 968 • 3000 George Washington Way • Richland, Washington 99352

July 7, 1989

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J. B. Martin
Regional Administrator, Region V
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1450 Maria Lane - Suite 210
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SUPPORT OF OPERATION, PLANT

I have read with interest the insights into engineering performance provided by your paper, "Engineering Support for Plant Operations". As a consequence of your 1987 SSFI at WNP-2 we developed three major programs to respond to the deficiencies identified by that inspection. The three programs are: The Engineering Improvement Program, the Configuration Management Improvement Programs, and the Design Bases Program. These efforts were described to you during recent management meetings. Your staff has monitored our progress with these programs, and I have recently reviewed our results. I believe the progress to date has been significant. As an example, a greater than sixty percent (60%) reduction in the design type field change requests were experienced during our recent outage. This is significant when you consider these programs are long term, i.e. 4-6 years, and this is our first year!

Organizationally the Supply System has attempted to have more engineering involvement with the plant. Since the start of commercial operation, we have performed our design work and located the engineering personnel at the plant. However, I must admit I too am struggling with how to have engineering become more "intrusive" into plant operations. A quick fix or new program/system is not proposed, at this time. While we have made progress in this regard since Lee Oxsen has been on-board, we here all agree more can be done. Our plan is to manage the development of the above programs concurrently with the overall Supply System quality improvement program; with this approach we are optimistic that involvement by all organizations with plant operations will become more completely imbedded as part of the corporate culture.

I have asked our Director of Engineering, Joe Burn, to periodically meet with your staff to informally brief them on the progress of the established programs, and to review the success of the quality improvement program with respect to better interaction between engineering and the plant.


D. W. Mazur
Managing Director

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