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 SORESEN, G.C. Washington Public Power Supply System
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Requests extension of operator licensing exams from Aug 1992 to Nov 1992, per Generic Ltr 89-03. Exams for new licenses & license upgrades will be administered in Mar & requalification exams will be administered in Nov.

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April 28, 1992
GO2-92-111

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

**SUBJECT: WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN OPERATOR LICENSING
NATIONAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

Reference: 1) Generic Letter 89-03, "Operator Licensing National Examination Schedule," March 24, 1989
2) Letter dated January 17, 1992, G.C. Sorensen (SS) to R.M. Gallo (NRC), "Response to Generic Letter 91-12"

The purpose of this letter is to request a change in one of the two time periods set forth in Reference 1 for conducting annual examinations for WNP-2.

The schedule established in Generic Letter 89-03 for WNP-2 operator licensing examinations is March and August of each U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fiscal year. This schedule has been followed at WNP-2 since 1989. Due to extenuating circumstances, the Supply System is requesting that the August schedule date be moved to November, so that future tests will be given in March and November. Our intent is to administer exams for new licenses or license upgrades in March and requalification exams in November each year.

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**REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN OPERATOR LICENSING
NATIONAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

Operation of WNP-2 is closely coupled with the hydro electric system of the Pacific Northwest and, as such, WNP-2 is shutdown in the spring and early summer each year for a maintenance and refueling outage. The outages typically begin in March or April and are concluded in June. Conducting requalification exams in March has the potential to have these exams occurring during an outage when the need for operations personnel at the plant is at a peak. If the requalification exams are conducted in August and the outage is extended, licensed operators would again be required to prepare for exams at a time when they are most in demand at the plant.

Even in those years where the outage is completed on schedule, the licensed operators will just be coming out of a period where they are typically worked to the administrative limits and are in need of a break prior to facing the rigors of their annual requalification exams. Conducting the annual requalification exams in November instead of August is optimum from the standpoint of plant status and operator readiness. We have reviewed the National Examination Schedule and it does not appear that this change will create additional burdens for the NRC personnel who would be involved in exam administration. Discussions with NRC staff have confirmed this conclusion. We propose that this change be effective in 1992, with requalification exams being given in November.

Our letter of January 17, 1992, (Reference 2) indicated that our understanding was that the schedule change from August to November would require a one-time exemption from the requirement for each licensed operator to pass an annual requalification exam. Based on a recent conversation between M.G. Eades of our staff and Mr. W.M. Dean, Acting WNP-2 Project Manager (NRR), we understand that "annual" does not mean every 12 months, but once each calendar year. With this understanding, completion of the requalification exams in November 1992 will meet the annual requirement. As noted above, future requalification exams will be conducted in November and initial or upgrade license exams will be conducted in March.

In Reference 2, we also indicated our desire to conduct an operator licensing exam in December 1992 for those license candidates who are currently in training. Upon further review, we have decided to conduct that exam in March 1993. Thus, the one-time change requested in Reference 2 will not be required.

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

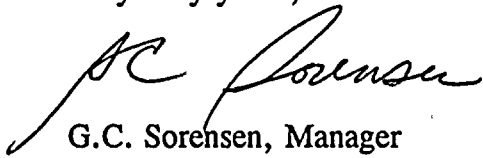
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**REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN OPERATOR LICENSING
NATIONAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

In order to make appropriate plans for the licensing exams, your reply by June 1, 1992, to our request to reschedule the National Exam Schedule from August to November on a permanent basis would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,



G.C. Sorensen, Manager
Regulatory Programs (Mail Drop 280)

GCS:sn

cc: WM Dean, NRC
RM Gallo, NRC
NK Hunemuller, NRC
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