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SUBJECT: Application for amend to license NPF-21, requesting addition of section 2B(6) re allowance of storage of byproduct, source & special nuclear materials.

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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

P.O. Box 968 • 3000 George Washington Way • Richland, Washington 99352-0968 • (509) 372-5000

October 10, 1996
GO2-96-194

Docket No. 50-397

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

Gentlemen:

Subject: **WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21**
REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
ADDITION OF SECTION 2B(6)

- References:
- 1) Letter, dated February 13, 1987, GC Sorenson (SS) to JB Martin (NRC),
"Storage of Neutron Sources Belonging to WNP-1 and WNP-3/5 at WNP-2
Facilities"
 - 2) Letter, dated March 30, 1992, GC Sorenson (SS) to US Nuclear Regulatory
Commission, "WNP-1 Byproduct Materials License #46-17694-02, WNP-1
Sources Transfer"
 - 3) Letter, dated September 18, 1984, GC Sorenson (SS) to JM Taylor (NRC),
"Storage of WNP-3 Neutron Sources at WNP-2 Facilities"
 - 4) Letter, dated February 3, 1995, WG Counsil (SS) to US Nuclear Regulatory
Commission, "Termination of Washington Public Power Supply System
Nuclear Projects Nos. 1 and 3"
 - 5) Letter, dated March 15, 1996, RA Scarano (NRC) to JW Baker (SS), "NRC
Inspection Report 030-19590/96-01"
 - 6) Letter, dated August 8, 1996, JV Parrish (SS) to JM Russell (NRC),
"Washington Public Power Supply System Nuclear Project No. 3,
Termination of Construction Permit"

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**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO WNP-2 OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
ADDITION OF SECTION 2B(6)**

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Parts 2.101 and 50.90, the Supply System hereby submits a request for amendment to the WNP-2 Operating License NPF-21 to allow storage of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials acquired as a result of deferred construction and termination of other reactor plants owned by the Washington Public Power Supply System.

Attachment 1 outlines the implementation plan and provides a justification for storing byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials acquired as a result of deferred construction and termination of other reactor plants owned by the Washington Public Power Supply System. Attachment 2 includes the marked up page from the WNP-2 Operating License defining the details of the requested amendment.

As discussed in Attachment 3, the Supply System has concluded that the proposed changes to Operating License NPF-21 do not involve a significant hazards consideration. In addition, the proposed changes do not create the potential for a significant change in the types or significant increase in the amount of any effluents that may be released offsite, nor do the changes involve a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the proposed change meets the eligibility criteria for a categorical exclusion as set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(b), an environmental assessment of this change is not required.

The proposed amendment to Operating License NPF-21 has been reviewed and approved by the WNP-2 Plant Operations Committee and the Supply System Corporate Nuclear Safety Review Board. The State of Washington has been provided with a copy of this letter in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91.

Should you have any questions or desire additional information regarding this matter, please call me or Ms. L. C. Fernandez at (509) 377-4147.

Respectfully,



P. R. Bemis
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Mail Drop PE23

Attachments

cc: LJ Callan - NRC RIV
KE Perkins, Jr. - NRC RIV, WCFO
NS Reynolds - Winston & Strawn
TL Colburn - NRR

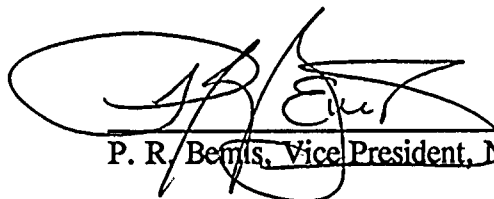
DL Williams - BPA/399
NRC Sr. Resident Inspector - 927N
FS Adair - EFSEC
KM Prendergast - NRC RIV, WCFO

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF BENTON)

Subject: Request for Amendment to WNP-2
Operating License NPF-21

I, P.R. Bemis, being duly sworn, subscribe to and say that I am the Vice President, Nuclear Operations 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 10/10/96, 1996



P. R. Bemis, Vice President, Nuclear Operations

On this day personally appeared before me P.R. BEMIS, 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 10 day of October 1996.



Shirley R. Benzel
Notary Public in and for the STATE OF WASHINGTON

Residing at Richland, WA.

My Commission Expires 12/97



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**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
ADDITION OF SECTION 2B(6)**

Attachment 1

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Bases for Changes Requested to WNP-2 Operating License NPF-21

Operating License NPF-21 was issued to WNP-2 by the NRC on December 20, 1983. In 1983, the Supply System was also in the process of developing two additional power reactor plants, WNP-1 and WNP-3. Construction activity had been interrupted in 1982 on WNP-1 and in 1983 on WNP-3, pending resolution of emerging questions about projected power demands in the Pacific Northwest region. Although notice has been given by the Supply System to the NRC by Reference 4 that the WNP-1 and WNP-3 projects are being transitioned towards final termination status, both projects currently remain in a deferred status. It should be noted that the Supply System has requested by Reference 6 that the Construction Permit for WNP-3 be terminated. However, no action has been taken by the Supply System as yet in regard to formal termination of the WNP-1 Construction Permit, pending completion of studies to burn mixed oxide fuels from the Department of Energy weapons grade plutonium stockpile.

Materials License 46-17694-02 had been issued by the NRC on March 29, 1982 to allow WNP-1 to possess and use specified source and byproduct materials. That license has been maintained in force to the present day, consistent with the deferred status of the project. In 1986, the licensed materials were physically transferred from the WNP-1 site to the WNP-2 site because better protection of the public could be exercised under inventory and control processes governed by WNP-2 plant procedures than could be effected at the WNP-1 site due to staff limitations at WNP-1. However, the materials still remain under the scope of Materials License 46-17694-02. This arrangement was documented by Reference 1 and examined during an NRC inspection in October 1991. Reference 2 documents that inspection, and addresses the questions that arose, related to how the Supply System intended to return the WNP-1 materials from storage at WNP-2 and how the NRC would be notified of such transfer when WNP-1 construction resumed.

No materials license had been issued for WNP-3 when the project was put on deferred status in 1981. The WNP-3 reactor was designed by Combustion Engineering (CE), and the contract included provision of startup sources and incore detectors. When the project was deferred, these materials had been assembled in a form suitable for insertion into the CE designed reactor. These assemblies were being stored by a sub-vendor to CE until they were transferred in 1984 for storage at the WNP-2 site under WNP-2 Operating License NPF-21, because the CE sub-vendor was ceasing nuclear related business. This transfer was acceptable to NRC representatives at that time, subsequently documented by the Supply System in Reference 3.

In summary, certain licensed materials acquired as part of the deferred WNP-1 and WNP-3 projects are being controlled at WNP-2. The WNP-1 materials are under the scope of Materials License 46-17694-02, and the WNP-3 materials are under the scope of Operating License NPF-21. However, notice has been given by the Supply System to the NRC, by

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
ADDITION OF SECTION 2B(6)**

Attachment 1

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Reference 4, that the WNP-1 and WNP-3 projects are being transitioned towards final termination status, and a formal request has been filed by the Supply System for termination of the WNP-3 Construction Permit.

The acceptability of the current arrangement was re-examined in a 1996 NRC inspection, documented by Reference 5. No violations were issued, but concern relative to the applicability of WNP-2 Operating License NPF-21 for WNP-3 materials was expressed. Consequently, the Supply System is proposing a modification to Operating License NPF-21 to specifically identify and allow storage of a limited amount of materials not for use at WNP-2. This would allow subsequent cancellation of Materials License 46-17694-02 when the termination process for WNP-1 has further progressed, and eliminate future questions about retention of WNP-3 materials.

The Supply System has determined that there is no current market for these materials, and they are of such a nature that permanent disposal is economically unfeasible. Therefore, storage under the WNP-2 Operating License is the remaining alternative, and is not a significant burden because operation of WNP-2 involves a continuing use of licensed materials.

