

# CATEGORY 1

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SUBJECT: Requests that WNP-2 Operator Regualification Program be  
 granted one-time extension beyond requirement in  
 10CFR55.59(a)(2) for annual operating tests.

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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

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

April 13, 1999  
GO2-99-068

Docket No. 50-397

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: **WNP-2 OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21  
REQUEST FOR ONE-TIME EXTENSION TO THE ANNUAL  
OPERATING TEST REQUIREMENTS OF 10CFR55.59**

The Supply System requests that the WNP-2 Operator Qualification Program be granted a one-time extension beyond the requirement in 10CFR55.59(a)(2) for annual operating tests. Specifically, we are requesting that the annual operating test periodicity be allowed a one-time extension from "annual" to a period not to exceed 15-months from the last date of passing the operating examination for each licensee at our facility. The Qualification Program 24-month cycle duration in 10CFR55.59(a)(1) will not be altered by this extension request.

WNP-2 is presently transitioning from a 12-month to a 24-month refuel cycle. As part of this transition, the Spring 1999 Refueling Outage (R14) has been moved to the Fall 1999 timeframe (currently scheduled for September 18 through October 23, 1999). Due to the increased demand for Operations staffing during the plant refueling outage, qualification training is limited to startup training and resumed after plant re-start. A one-time extension of the annual operating test periodicity will allow for the WNP-2 Operations and Training staff to focus on outage activities while minimizing the use of overtime to accommodate a concurrent qualification training schedule.

This request for a period "not to exceed 15-months" is based on the date of the first examinations administered in 1998 (November 19, 1998) to the projected last day for administering the operating exam (February 11, 2000). Since examinations are administered over a period of six weeks (one week per operating crew), the actual period between operating exams will be less than 15-months for most licensed operators.

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**REQUEST FOR ONE-TIME EXTENSION TO THE ANNUAL OPERATING TEST  
REQUIREMENTS OF 10CFR55.59**

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Your prompt consideration of this request would be appreciated. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please call me or WD Shaeffer, Manager, WNP-2 Nuclear Training, at (509) 377-8266.

Respectfully,



GO Smith  
Vice President, Generation  
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10-11-58