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May 25, 1983



John F. Wolf, Esq., Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
3409 Shepherd Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Nicholas D. Lewis, Chairman
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Mail Stop PY-11
Olympia, Washington 98504

Re: Skagit/Hanford Nuclear Project (S/HNP)
NRC Docket Nos. STN 50-522 and STN 50-523
EFSEC Docket No. 81-1

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the Memorandum and Order Suspending Health and Safety Prehearing Schedule entered by the Board on February 18, 1983 in the NRC licensing proceeding and to the similar action taken by the State Siting Council in the state licensing proceeding. The net effect of these actions was to suspend the federal and state S/HNP licensing proceedings pending adoption by the Northwest Power Planning Council (the Regional Council) of the final Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan (the Plan).

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An anticipated, the final Plan was adopted by the Regional Council on April 27. Although the text of the final Plan will not be available until early June, the Council has released a summary of the Plan and a summary of its two-year action plan. Copies of these summaries and the Council's news release of April 27 and its distribution letter of May 3 are enclosed.

As will be noted from the summaries, contrary to Applicants' expectations, the final Plan does not include the S/HNP units among the resource options. We are disappointed that our efforts to persuade the Council to include the S/HNP units did not prove successful and are still of the view that the S/HNP units should be preserved as resource options. We are enclosing a copy of the statement to that effect issued by Mr. Ellis, President of Puget Power, on April 27, 1983.

As indicated by Mr. Ellis, Puget Power and its partners in the Skagit/Hanford Nuclear Project are considering the implications of the final Plan and the licensing alternatives now open to them with respect to S/HNP. These alternatives range from a decision to press forward with federal and state licensing to a decision to terminate all further licensing efforts. Other alternatives include requesting the Board and the Siting Council to continue the current suspension of licensing activities until issuance of the Regional Council's first revision of the Plan (presently scheduled for the Spring of 1985) or requesting the Board and the Council to enter partial initial decisions on issues that are appropriate and ripe for decision now.

As we believe the Board and the Council can appreciate, this is a complex situation involving a substantial investment and, unfortunately, it is made even more complex by the still evolving uncertainties relating to the five partially completed nuclear projects of the Washington Public Power Supply System. Notwithstanding the complexities of the situation, Applicants are reasonably confident that they can come to a decision by mid-September of this year as to which licensing alternative they wish to pursue and propose to the Board and the Council.

The continued pendency of the federal and state licensing proceedings during this brief period of further suspension would not appear to be burdensome to the Board, the Council, or

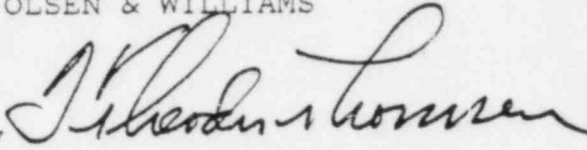
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the parties. Accordingly, we request that the current suspension of the federal and state proceedings continue until mid-September (except for action by the Board on our enclosed request for extension of time to answer intervenors' May 12 motion for summary disposition).

Very truly yours,

PERKINS, COIE, STONE,
OLSEN & WILLIAMS

By



F. Theodore Thomsen
Attorneys for Applicants

FTT:abp

Enclosure: Request for Extension

cc w/encs: NRC Service List
EFSEC Distribution List