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Washington Public Power Supply System

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Docket 50-508

August 8, 1983
G03-83-620

Mr. Thomas M. Novak
Assistant Director for Licensing
Division of Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: WNP-3 PLANT SPECIFIC INPUT ON DEPRESSURIZATION
AND DECAY HEAT REMOVAL

Reference: a) T. M. Novak to R. L. Ferguson, CE Owners
Group Study on Depressurization and Decay Heat
Removal Capability of CE Plants without PORVs,
dated May 24, 1983

b) R. L. Tedesco to A. E. Scherer, Depressurization
and Decay Heat Removal Capability of the CESSAR Design,
dated March 26, 1982

c) T. M. Novak to R. L. Ferguson, Depressurization
and Decay Heat Removal for WNP-3, dated May 24, 1983

d) R. W. Wells to D. G. Eisenhut, Response to
NRC Questions on Depressurization and Decay Heat
Removal Capabilities in Combustion Engineering Plants,
dated October 28, 1982

In reference a), you established the staff position that a decision regarding the need for PORVs on CE plants (currently without PORVs) would be based upon information received by June 30, 1983. The Supply System considers this position to be unreasonable in light of the history of this issue and the limited time available to respond. We therefore request that the staff factor into its decision the WNP-3 plant specific information to be available in September.

Reference b) submitted a series of questions on the CESSAR-F docket and similar letters were sent to other non-CESSAR CE plants without PORVs. Although the Supply System did not have these questions on the WNP-3 docket until May of 1983 (reference c), we have participated in the CE Owners Group activities since their inception in the fall of 1982. Reference d) provided a schedule for submittal of generic and plant specific reports in resolution of these questions. The schedule

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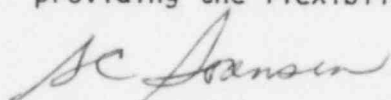
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called for the generic report to be submitted in June 1983 with a WNP-3 specific report in December 1983. Even prior to your May 24th letter (reference a), the Supply System aggressively pursued the potential for earlier submittal of the WNP-3 report. It was not possible to reduce the seven to eight months remaining to the extent necessary to meet the June 30, 1983 deadline. The earliest date feasible is September 1983.

The Supply System is confident that the generic information supplied to the staff will support the current design of CE plants and that PORVs do not provide appreciable enhancements to decay heat removal capabilities. We expect that the WNP-3 report will demonstrate that the addition of PORVs will actually detract from the overall safety of the plant. Therefore, a decision by the staff on WNP-3 should consider the plant specific report in order to properly address the issue of need for PORVs on WNP-3.

In conclusion, the Supply System requests that the staff not issue a blanket decision regarding the need for PORVs on CE plants without providing the flexibility for a specific evaluation of WNP-3.



G. C. Sorensen
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KWC/ss

cc: J. A. Adams - NESCO
D. Smithpeter - BPA
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WNP-3 Files - Richland