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July 2, 1991

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Washington, D.C. 20555

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Mr. Glenn O. Bright
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Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subj: Washington Public Power Supply
System (WPPSS Nuclear Project
No. 1) Docket No. 50-460-OL

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the October 14, 1983, Memorandum and Order in the captioned proceeding, the Washington Public Power Supply System hereby submits its quarterly status report regarding construction activities at WNP-1.

During the second quarter of 1991, no significant safety-related construction activities were performed at WNP-1, although a limited engineering effort was continuing. We do not anticipate any change in this level of activity during the next several months.

In addition, further to my letter of May 10, 1991, on June 18, 1991, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued an Order extending the latest construction completion date in the WNP-1

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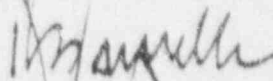
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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
July 2, 1991
Page 2

construction permit to June 1, 2001. Copies of the Order and the NRC Staff's supporting Safety Evaluation Report are attached.

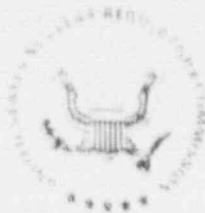
Sincerely,



Nicholas S. Reynolds
Counsel for Applicant

cc: Service List

JUN 20 1991



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

June 18, 1991

Docket No. 50-460

Mr. D. W. Mazur, Managing Director
Washington Public Power Supply System
P. O. Box 968
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352


Dear Mr. Mazur:

SUBJECT: ORDER EXTENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE FOR WASHINGTON PUBLIC
POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WPPSS) NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 1

Your letter of April 18, 1991, as supplemented by your letter of May 22, 1991, requested an extension of the construction completion date for WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 1. In response to your letters, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an Order extending the construction completion date. In lieu of the latest date of June 1, 1991, the construction completion date of Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 has been extended to June 1, 2001.

Copies of the Order, the staff's safety evaluation, and the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are enclosed for your information. The Order has been forwarded to the Office of Federal Register for publication. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 14, 1991 (56 FR 27547).

Sincerely,


Marvin M. Mendonca, Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors, Decommissioning and
Environmental Project Directorate
Division of Advanced Reactors
and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Order Extending Construction
Completion Date
2. Safety Evaluation
3. Environmental Assessment

cc: See next page

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Mr. D. W. Mazur
Washington Public Power Supply System

WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 1
(WNP-1) Docket No. STN 50-460

cc:

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-460

ORDER EXTENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE

Washington Public Power Supply System is the current holder of Construction Permit No. CPPR-134, issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on December 23, 1975, for construction of WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1). On June 16, 1983, the construction completion date for WNP-1 was extended from January 1, 1982 to June 1, 1991. The facility is presently in a deferred construction status at the applicant's site on the Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation in Benton County, Washington, approximately eight miles north of Richland, Washington.

On April 18, 1991, as supplemented on May 22, 1991, the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS or applicant) filed a request for another extension of the completion date. This extension has been requested because construction has been delayed by the following events and conditions:

1. The temporary lack of demand for the energy to be produced by WNP-1 (WNP-1 is presently included in the list of potential power resources necessary to meet the projected electrical demand growth in the Pacific Northwest in coming years);
2. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) request that WNP-1 be placed in a preserved condition for future potential power resource needs;
3. Regional power planning projections indicate that the earliest resumption of engineering, construction activities may be July 1993; and
4. The allowance of a 72-month construction period to complete WNP-1 and a margin of uncertainties such as those associated with regional load growth or time to start-up the project to full construction making a revised construction completion date of June 1, 2001.

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WNP-1 is being maintained by WPPSS as a deferred plant pursuant to the Commission's Policy Statement on Deferred Plants, 52 FR 38077, October 14, 1987. Accordingly, the NRC staff has determined that WNP-1 is a deferred plant as defined by the Commission in the policy and that it is, therefore, subject to any applicable provisions of the policy set forth there.

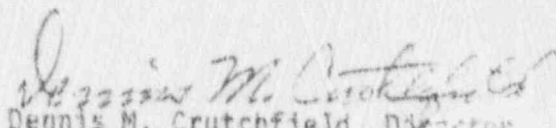
Good cause has been shown for the delays; the causes were beyond the control of the applicant; and the requested extension is for a reasonable period, the bases for which are set forth above, and in the staff's evaluation of the request for extension.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that extending the construction completion date will have no significant impact on the environment (56 FR 27547 on June 14, 1991).

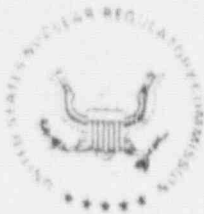
The NRC staff's safety evaluation of the request for extension of the construction permit is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington, 99352.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the latest completion date for Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 is extended from June 1, 1991 to June 1, 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Advanced Reactors
and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance: June 18, 1991



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
SUPPORTING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE EXTENSION
FOR WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM'S NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 1
DOCKET NO. 50-460

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.55(b), the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS or applicant) requested by letter of April 18, 1991, as supplemented by letter of May 22, 1991, an extension of the construction completion date for Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 from June 1, 1991 to June 1, 2001. The letter stated that the applicant had delayed the construction of WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1) until the projected electrical power demands required the completion of WNP-1 and stated that the reasons for the proposed amendment were beyond the applicant's control.

The construction completion date for WNP-1 had previously been extended from January 1, 1982 to June 1, 1991 by NRC letter dated June 16, 1983.

The staff has reviewed the WPPSS's letter of April 18, 1991, referencing Northwest Power Planning Council's conservation and electric power plan and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) analysis of resource alternative. The following evaluation provides the summary of staff findings.

2.0 EVALUATION

BPA, which is charged with the responsibility of providing electrical energy to the Northwest region and is the designated recipient of all WNP-1 power output, has performed analyses of load/resource characteristics, conservation and renewable resources, economics of WPPSS Projects No. 1, and No. 3 alternatives, and financial and rate analyses including evaluation of legal and political implications of available options. Based on the results of these analyses, the BPA advised the WPPSS to maintain WNP-1 as a viable potential electrical power source. WPPSS indicated, and the staff agrees, that BPA support is essential to the construction of WNP-1. Recognizing these realities, WPPSS has deferred the construction of WNP-1 and maintained the facility in a deferred plant status. The staff finds that the above circumstances were indeed beyond the control of WPPSS, the additional delay is reasonable and adequately constitutes good cause for delay in completion of the construction of WNP-1.

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The staff has considered the public health and safety significance of preserving WNP-1, which is more than 60 percent constructed. This review considered the same factors as in the staff's previous extension of the WNP-1 construction completion date. That is, the staff concluded that, since the applicant will meet the staff's requirements regarding licensable maintenance of the plant and the site, and since the staff will exercise the inspection/enforcement functions, the proposed WNP-1 preservation will be consistent with the NRC's deferred plant policy statement and is, therefore, acceptable. Further, the applicant, in a letter dated June 11, 1982, has made the commitment that the final WNP-1 designs will satisfy the requirements of present regulations and any requirements of future regulations promulgated between the date of docketing and the resumption of the construction. The staff, therefore, does not expect that the proposed delay in completion of WNP-1 construction would result in any significant public health and safety risk issues associated with the permittee's final designs.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The staff has also considered the environmental impacts of the extension of the construction permit, and has determined that the proposed action does not entail any construction activities significantly different from those that were considered in the Final Environmental Statement for WNP-1 and 4 (NUREG 75/012, dated March 1975). The staff, therefore, concludes that the proposed action will not alter the conclusions reached in NUREG-75/012 regarding the environmental impacts and cost/benefit balances of construction of WNP-1. Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that extending the construction completion date will have no significant impact on the environment (55 FR 27547 on June 14, 1991).

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The staff, based on the above evaluation, concludes that the factors that have prompted the applicant to delay the completion of construction of WNP-1 were beyond the control of the applicant and constitute good cause for the delay in completion of construction under 10 CFR 50.55(b). Therefore, the staff finds that the requested amendment to the construction completion date is reasonable. The staff further concludes that the proposed delay will not result in any significant increase in public health and safety risks or environmental impacts. The only modification proposed by the applicant to the existing construction permit is an extension of the latest construction completion date. The extension does not allow the performance of any work involving new safety information of a type not considered by the staff prior to its issuance of the existing construction permit.

Therefore, the staff finds that: (1) this action does not involve a significant hazard consideration as there is no radiological health and safety question involved here; (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by extension of the construction completion date; and (3) good cause exists for issuance of an order extending the completion date. Accordingly, based upon the foregoing evaluation, the NRC staff has

concluded that issuance of an order extending the latest completion date for construction of WNP-1 is reasonable and should be authorized. The latest completion date should be extended to June 1, 2001.

Principal Contributor: Marvin M. Mendonca

Date: June 18, 1991

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 1
DOCKET NO. EP-460
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an extension to the latest construction completion date specified in Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 issued to Washington Public Power Supply System (applicant or WPPSS) for Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1). The facility is located on the applicant's site on the Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation in Benton County, Washington, approximately eight miles north of Richland, Washington.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would extend the latest construction completion date of Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 to June 1, 2001. The proposed action is in response to the applicant's request of April 18, 1991 as supplemented on May 22, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed because the construction of the facility is not yet fully completed and the licensee wants to maintain the facility as a potential electrical power resource.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

Since the proposed action involves extending the construction permit, there are no radiological impacts associated with this action. The impacts that are involved are all non-radiological and are associated with continued

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construction. The impact of construction was evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement for WNP-1 and 4 (NUREG-75/012, dated March 1975).

Based on the foregoing, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed extension of the construction permit would have no significant environmental impact.

Alternatives Considered:

A possible alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the request. Under this alternative, the applicant would not be able to complete construction of the facility. This would result in denial of the potential benefit of power production. This option would not eliminate the environmental impacts of construction already incurred. If construction were halted and not completed, site redress activities would restore some small areas to their natural state. This would be a slight environmental benefit, but much outweighed by the economic losses from denial of the use of a facility that is nearly completed. Therefore, this alternative is rejected.

Another alternative is to take no action on the request for extension. The construction permit would not be deemed to have expired until the application has been finally processed (10 CFR 2.109). In effect the construction permit could be in effect as long as no action was taken on a timely application for an extension. To take no action on the applicant's request would not be responsive; therefore, this alternative is rejected.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources other than those evaluated in the FES prepared as part of the NRC staff's review of the construction permit application, NUREG-75/012, March 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request and applicable documents referenced therein that support this extension. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons.

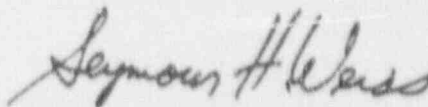
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for this action. Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the request for extension of April 18, 1991 as supplemented on May 22, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20555, and at the Local Public Document Room, Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Street, Richland, Washington, 99352.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of June 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Seymour H. Weiss, Director
Non-Power Reactors, Decommissioning and
Environmental Project Directorate
Division of Advanced Reactors
and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation