

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Washington Public Power Supply System (EA 96-327)
Washington Nuclear Project, Unit 2 (WNP-2)
Docket No. 50-397

Subject: PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY - \$100,000 - EXERCISE OF
ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$100,000 will be issued on or about November 26, 1996, to Washington Public Power Supply System. The action is based on several instances in which required surveillances were not performed. In some cases, mode changes were made without assurance that required equipment was operable, and in one case, a mode change was made with one train of the control room emergency filtration system inoperable. The violations have been collectively characterized as a Severity Level III problem.

Because this was not the first escalated enforcement action within two years, the staff considered whether credit was warranted for identification and corrective action. Credit was warranted for identification because most of the violations were identified by the licensee. Credit was also warranted for corrective actions because the licensee took both prompt and comprehensive action. However, the root causes of the violations are similar to previous violations that were part of a Severity Level III problem and proposed \$50,000 civil penalty issued in August 1995 (EA 95-096). Thus, to emphasize the failure of the licensee's previous corrective actions to preclude similar violations from occurring, and to emphasize the fundamental importance of having an effective program for assuring that surveillances are performed as required, the staff is exercising discretion under VII.A.1 of the Enforcement Policy and proposing a \$100,000 civil penalty.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice	November 26, 1996
Telephone Notification of Licensee	November 26, 1996

The State of Washington will be notified.

The licensee has thirty days from the date of the Notice in which to respond. Following NRC evaluation of the response, the civil penalty may be remitted, mitigated, or imposed by Order.

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL
VERIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS RECEIVED ACTION

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