

participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

**Sylvia K. Kraemer,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration.*

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (02-013)]

### NASA Advisory Council, Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee.

**DATES:** Tuesday, February 19, 2002, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, February 20, 2002, 8 a.m. to 12 Noon

**ADDRESSES:** American Management Association, 440 First St., NW, Washington, DC 20001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Bradley Carpenter, Code UG, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, 202/358-0826.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Review Recommendations
  - Program Overview
  - Division Reports
  - Status of International Space Station
  - Non-governmental Organization (NGO) and Commercialization Status
  - Education and Outreach Policy
  - Review of Committee Findings and Recommendations
- It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-460]

### Energy Northwest; Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1) Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an extension of the latest construction completion date specified in Construction Permit No. CPPR-134 issued to Washington Public Power Supply System (permittee) for the Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1). As part of this proposed action, the staff will update the permit to reflect an administrative change in the permit holder's name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest. The facility is located at Energy Northwest'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 from June 1, 2001 to June 1, 2011, and update the permit to reflect an administrative change in the permit holder's name from the Washington Public Power Supply System to Energy Northwest. The proposed action is in response to Energy Northwest's request dated April 9, 2001.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to grant the licensee the option of completing construction on WNP-1 in the future. Energy Northwest requested the extension for WNP-1 because some of its stakeholders requested that a viability study be conducted on the completion of the facility. The request was made, in part, because of the increase in the electrical load in the Pacific Northwest. Until the viability study is completed and decisions on generating options to meet future load forecasts are finalized, Energy Northwest would like to maintain completing WNP-1 as an option.

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The environmental impacts associated with the construction of the facility have been previously discussed and evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement (FES), NUREG-75/012, March 1975, prepared as part of the

NRC staff's review of the construction permit application. Because of the passage of time from the issuance of the FES, the staff requested additional information in a June 22, 2001, letter to Energy Northwest, to determine if the conclusions reached in the March 1975 FES remain valid. Energy Northwest responded to these questions in a letter dated November 27, 2001.

In its November 27, 2001, response, Energy Northwest addressed the impact of resumption of construction in the following areas: historic and culturally significant sites, disturbance of land and the Columbia River bed, socioeconomic impacts, additional cumulative impacts from other projects in the area, threatened and endangered species, and National Monuments. Highlights of Energy Northwest's response follow. Energy Northwest stated that no additional historic or culturally significant sites have been identified in areas that might be affected by the resumption of construction activities. Regarding disturbance of land and the Columbia River bed, Energy Northwest stated that resumption of construction would not require disturbance of any land that had not already been disturbed prior to the cessation of construction in 1983, and no disturbance of the riverbed or shoreline would be required by the resumption of construction.

Regarding the socioeconomic impacts of WNP-1 construction, Energy Northwest noted that the population in the area has grown and the public infrastructure has grown as well. Energy Northwest concludes that "[c]ompared to 1975, the estimated socioeconomic impacts of WNP-1 construction would be the same or less." Regarding additional cumulative impacts from other projects in the area, Energy Northwest noted that it has no plans for other activities that could contribute to additional cumulative impacts. Energy Northwest did note that the U.S. Department of Energy has plans to construct a waste vitrification plant on the Hanford Site to process radioactive wastes presently stored in tanks. Energy Northwest states that no cumulative impact to the natural environment is anticipated if both construction of WNP-1 and the vitrification plant were pursued concurrently. It did note that it is possible that there would be an incremental stress on the local infrastructure.

Regarding threatened and endangered species, the staff provided two tables in its June 22, 2001, letter providing a list of species identified in the 1975 FES that have been listed as threatened or endangered by the Fish and Wildlife Service and a list of endangered species