ORDER NUMBER: 517
DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 1976

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY
FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of Application
No. 76-2 of the
NORTHERN TIER PIPELINE
COMPANY

ORDER ALLOWING INTERVENTION
BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE

Summary of the City of Seattle's Petition to Intervene.

The City of Seattle, Washington, a municipal corporation and
City of the First Class, has filed a Petition and Application
for Intervention in the subject proceedings, stating as follows:
The City owns and operates, through its Department of Water,
a municipal water storage and supply system for approximately
925,000 people within the Seattle metropolitan area. For over
70 years the City has relied upon the Cedar River watershed
as its primary source of supply, and its basic approach to
water quality has been directed towards protection of the
natural purity of the source rather than upon reliance on
expensive treatment processes. Accordingly, all access to and
activities within the Cedar River watershed are strictly con-
trolled, and the City already owns most land within the water-
shed area outright, and has committed itself to acquire the
remainder. Supplemental information received since the origi-
nal application in the subject proceedings indicates that the
selected route corridor is adjacent to the southern boundary
of the Cedar River watershed for some distance, then passes
through the watershed in the vicinity of Selleck. Petitioner's
interests and concerns are stated as follows:

A. The construction, operation and maintenance of an oil
pipeline is fundamentally incompatible with the principle
of strictly controlled Cedar River watershed management
and access, involving basic risks constituting serious
water supply and environmental hazards.

B. The area near Selleck is such that a precise hydrographic
watershed boundary is virtually impossible to ascertain
and thus the proposed route corridor's impact on the Ce-
dar River watershed may be greater than indicated by the
map, and this concern is especially valid in view of the
City's plans for future water supply wells near Selleck.
C. Any branch line route to existing oil refineries near Bellingham and Anacortes, to which references have been made during the subject proceedings, would probably involve a direct and hazardous crossing of the Cedar River watershed at a point upstream from the present water supply intake.

The Council finds:

The City of Seattle has a special and pertinent interest in the subject proceeding and a need to be timely informed. Its interest will not be adequately represented by existing parties, including the Counsel for the Environment. The participation in this proceeding by the City of Seattle, by and through its Water Department, will be in the public interest and will not unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of other parties.

The Council orders:

The Petition and Application for Intervention in these proceedings by the City of Seattle, by and through its Water Department, is accepted and granted and the City is hereby permitted to intervene in this proceeding with respect to its above stated interests and concerns with all rights of intervention according to title 463 of the Washington Administrative Code.

Dated at Olympia, Washington and effective this 8th day of November 1976.

WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

By [Signature]
Keith Sherman
Chairman

ATTEST:

By [Signature]
Roger Palzin
Executive Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By [Signature]
Thomas F. Carr
Assistant Attorney General