

WPPSS Ex-leader Accused

OLYMPIA — (AP) — A former member of the Washington Public Power Supply System board of directors violated state conflict of interest laws by accepting contracts for his own firm, the state auditor said yesterday.

Auditor Robert Graham said the case against John Goldsbury should be turned over to the attorney general's office for possible action.

Goldsbury, who recently resigned from the board, the WPPSS Managing Director Neil Strand insist there is no conflict of interest.

WPPSS is the agency which is building five nuclear power plants at Hanford and Satsop.

Goldsbury had been a board member since 1972 and was president from 1977 to mid-1979. During those years, he was part owner of Morrison Refrigeration & Heating Co. Since 1977, he has been the firm's president and 95 percent owner, the report said.

The supply system has been doing business with Morrison for at least the past four years, Graham said. The largest amount of business came last year, when Morrison got almost \$15,000 worth of business.

Over the four years, the amount was \$26,840, he said, adding that payment vouchers from 1973 through 1975 were "in storage and not immediately available for review."

Graham said the Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers, a state law, says no officer can directly or indirectly benefit from contracts made by the public body he or she serves.

Some exceptions are made, but never in excess of \$200 a month, the auditor said. He said monthly payments as large as \$9,399 were made to Goldsbury's firm.

In a letter published with the audit, Strand said Goldsbury "did not intentionally use his office to obtain work for his business, but instead found himself in a position of being the only authorized dealer who could service the equipment involved."