March 3, 2008

J.V. Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000397/2008001)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On February 5, 2008, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Columbia Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2007. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC’s Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2009. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).
If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (817) 860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Claude E. Johnson, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket:  50-397
License:  NPF-21

Enclosure:  Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosures:
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DRS Director (RJC1)
DRS Deputy Director (ACC)
Senior Resident Inspector (ZKD)
Branch Chief, DRP/A (CEJ1)
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RITS Coordinator (MSH3)
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Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)
V. Dricks, PAO (VLD)
W. Maier, RSLO (WAM)
L. Owen, RA Secretary (LAO)
DRS Branch Chiefs (WBJ, REL, LJS, MPS1, RLB3)
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SUNSI Review Completed:  TRF  ADAMS:  √ Yes  □ No  Initials:  TRF
√ Publicly Available  □ Non-Publicly Available  □ Sensitive  √ Non-Sensitive
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