



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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March 3, 2010

J.V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 05000397/2010001)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On February 16, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Columbia Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2009. 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-Related 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, was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix as a result of a White performance indicator for unplanned scrams per 7000 critical hours. This performance indicator initially crossed the Green-White threshold in the second quarter of this assessment period and remained there throughout the assessment period. The NRC planned a supplemental inspection to begin in the third quarter of 2009, however, the plant experienced additional scrams and the supplemental inspection was postponed to allow additional time for performance of a thorough root cause for the scrams. The NRC staff plans to perform a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White inputs in a Strategic Performance Area" on March 22, 2010. The inspection will provide assurance that the root and contributing causes for the White performance indicator are understood, the extent of condition and extent of cause are identified, and that corrective actions are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes and prevent their recurrence.

The number of reactor scrams and unplanned transients that occurred during this assessment period indicated an adverse trend in initiating events and with equipment reliability. It is important that this adverse trend be corrected including identifying any organizational factors that may have contributed to the trend such as decision making and work control. Examples included the failure to perform an adequate site acceptance test of the digital electro-hydraulic system, the failure to properly evaluate work scope changes for preventive maintenance inspections on the non-segregated high voltage buses, and the failure to implement guidance

and standards provided in an operations instruction resulting in a manual plant scram.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2011. 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 mid-cycle 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 Wayne Walker at (817) 860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
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Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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SUNSI Rev Compl.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ADAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reviewer Initials	WW
Publicly Avail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	WW
C:DRP/A	D:DRS	D:DRP			
WWalker	RJCaniano	DDChamberlain			
/RA/	/RA/	/RA/			
2/23/2010	2/25/2010	2/25/2010			

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Columbia Generating Stati
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/01/2010 - 06/30/2011

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
EB1-21 - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION					6
2	05/17/2010	05/21/2010	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
2	06/01/2010	06/11/2010	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
RS45 - RADIATION SAFETY					2
2	06/28/2010	07/02/2010	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
2	06/28/2010	07/02/2010	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
2	06/28/2010	07/02/2010	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	06/28/2010	07/02/2010	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP EXERCISE INSPECTION					4
2	08/30/2010	09/03/2010	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
2	08/30/2010	09/03/2010	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
2	08/30/2010	09/03/2010	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
2	08/30/2010	09/03/2010	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
2	08/30/2010	09/03/2010	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
RS12MCA - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY					2
2	09/13/2010	09/17/2010	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	09/13/2010	09/17/2010	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	09/13/2010	09/17/2010	IP 7113011	Material Control and Accounting (MC&A)	
2	09/13/2010	09/17/2010	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	09/13/2010	09/17/2010	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
EB2-LRI - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION					6
2	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	IP 71002	License Renewal Inspection	
2	11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 71002	License Renewal Inspection	
BRQ - OPERATOR REQUAL INSPECTION					3
2	11/29/2010	12/03/2010	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
RP123 - RADIATION SAFETY					2
2	04/04/2011	04/08/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	04/04/2011	04/08/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	04/04/2011	04/08/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
PSB2-08G - INSERVICE INSPECTION					3
2	05/02/2011	05/27/2011	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.