



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

June 22, 2000

THIS LETTER WAS SENT INDIVIDUALLY TO THE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST AND CONSOLIDATED FOR ADAMS PURPOSES

SUBJECT: NRC PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING NEW REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROGRAM

Dear _____ :

I am writing to invite you to participate in a public meeting designed to explain to members of the local community the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) new reactor oversight process. The NRC staff has recently revised its oversight process, including how it inspects nuclear plant safety performance. The new process applies more objective, timely, safety-significant criteria in assessing safety performance at nuclear power plants, such as the WNP-2 (Columbia Generating Station) plant in your local area. We pilot tested this new process at 13 plants during a 6-month period in 1999. As a result of the pilot test, we made modifications to the process. Initial implementation of the new process began nationwide at all 103 nuclear power plants in April 2000.

We will hold our meeting between 6:30-7:30 p.m. on July 6, 2000, in the Richland Public Library Conference Room, at 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, Washington. At this meeting we will give you a complete description of the new process and how the new process is being used at the Columbia Generating Station and provide you the opportunity to ask any questions pertinent to the new process.

If you would like information about our reactor oversight process, please use our WEB site address: www.nrc.gov/nrr/oversight/index.html. I hope you can attend our meeting. If you know of other individuals who would be interested in attending this meeting, I would appreciate your letting them know about the session.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Smith at (817) 860-8137 or LJS@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Linda Joy Smith, Chief
Project Branch E
Division of Reactor Projects

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