

ENERGY NORTHWEST

P.O. Box 968 ■ Richland, Washington 99352-0968

March 19, 2001
GO2-01-044

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

**Subject: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED 10 CFR 50.59**

The effective date for the revised 10 CFR 50.59 rule was established by the NRC as March 13, 2001. As discussed in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-03, the NRC will permit an orderly transition to the revised rule by allowing licensees to implement the rule later than the effective date. Although an exemption is not necessary, the RIS suggests that a licensee should communicate its implementation plan to the NRC. Accordingly, it is our intention to implement the revised requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 on or about August 1, 2001. Prior to this date we will continue to use our existing 10 CFR 50.59 review process. After the implementation date, Energy Northwest will follow the new rule requirements with the exception that those evaluations initiated under the old process will be allowed to finish.

The implementation date was selected to avoid a transition during preparations for the Columbia Generating Station refueling outage planned for May and June of this year. Demands of the outage make it difficult to complete the procedure revisions and training for all affected personnel prior to March 13, 2001, or between this date and the end of the refueling outage.

Should you have any questions or desire additional information regarding this matter, please call Mr. PJ Inserra at (509) 377-4147.

Respectfully,



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Manager, Regulatory Affairs
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