



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

May 29, 2001

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 50-397/01-01)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On May 8, 2001, NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Columbia Generating Station. The end-of-cycle review for Columbia Generating Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period April 2, 2000, to March 31, 2001. 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 so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

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 PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002.

The enclosure details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1 through December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e., the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1 through September 30) in lieu of a midcycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as an enclosure, is minimal.

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Activities planned for the transition cycle represent only 60-80 percent of those activities that would be accomplished during a typical 12-month inspection and assessment cycle.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.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 817 860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William B. Jones, Chief
Project Branch E
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

05/27/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	PSB-RP4 - RAD MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION		1			
2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-EP1 - A&N, ERO, PI&R, EAL/EP, PIV		1			
2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP3 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS (3)		1			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP5 - RAD ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING		1			
2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-S1 - ACCESS AUTH/CONTROL, SEC PLA & PIV		1			
2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizati		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113004	Security Plan Changes		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - 50.59		1			
2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		08/20/2001	08/24/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - SSD&PCI		8			
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/20/2001	08/24/2001	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
	OB-PIR - IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM		3			
2	IP 711152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/29/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP6 - GASEOUS AND LIQUID EFFLUENTS		1			
2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		12/03/2001	12/07/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - HX PERF		2			
2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		12/10/2001	12/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PBE 1 - RESIDENT INSPECTION PERIOD 1		1			
2	IP 7111104	Equipment Alignment (Quarterly)		12/30/2001	03/23/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - MAINTENANCE RULE IMPLEMENTATION		2			
2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		01/14/2002	01/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP7 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS (4)		1			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/04/2002	02/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - 50.59 INSPECTION		1			
2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		04/08/2002	04/12/2002	Baseline Inspections

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

Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

05/27/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	PSB-S1	- ACCESS AUTH/CONTROL, SEC PLAN, AND PIV	1			
2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		04/15/2002	04/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizatio		04/15/2002	04/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113004	Security Plan Changes		04/15/2002	04/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/15/2002	04/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
	RP-1	- ACRSA AND PIV	1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		05/13/2002	05/17/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/13/2002	05/17/2002	Baseline Inspections