



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

January 9, 2003

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

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF NRC INVESTIGATION REPORT 4-2002-014

Dear Mr. Parrish:

This refers to the investigation initiated in April 2002 following your discovery that an illegal alien had been granted access to Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant, in Richland, Washington. The investigation was conducted to determine whether the individual had deliberately provided Energy Northwest fraudulent background information (i.e., a false social security number and alien registration card) to gain access to the facility.

The NRC's Office of Investigations (OI) interviewed the individual on April 3, 2002 in his attorney's office, and reviewed Energy Northwest's records related to this incident. The individual told our investigators that he was born in Mexico, came to the U.S. when he was about 5 years old, bought social security and alien registration cards when he was about 16 years old, and used these cards ever since, including when making application for employment with Energy Northwest through his high school's Cooperative Education Program.

Energy Northwest hired this individual in June 2000, after accepting the fraudulent documents as evidence of his alien status. The individual was hired to perform clerical duties, and he had intermittent access to the protected area at Columbia Generating Station up until the time his employment was terminated on March 25, 2002. As a result of his having provided fraudulent documents, Energy Northwest terminated his employment and he is facing possible action by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which is still pending.

The NRC's review of this matter did not identify any violations of NRC requirements committed by Energy Northwest. Energy Northwest's actions were in accordance with INS guidance in existence at the time, and did not conflict with any NRC requirements. Thus, the NRC is closing this matter with no further action. The NRC notes that Energy Northwest and the NRC have taken steps since the occurrence of this incident to tighten measures designed to determine alien status. For your information, the NRC has declined to take action against Energy Northwest's former employee based on the circumstances involved.

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

Energy Northwest

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Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

//RA by Elmo E. Collins Acting for//

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-397
License No. NPF-21

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bcc:
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EA Case Files

Via E-mail:
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