

April 23, 2004

Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Washington
1016 North Fourth Avenue
Pasco, WA 99301-3706

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your letter dated March 22, 2004 requesting that Franklin County Commissioners be specifically notified of, and be granted the opportunity to, participate in all land use or other planning efforts and/or decision making processes undertaken by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) within the borders of Franklin County, Washington. Your letter also informed us that Franklin County, Washington is interested in participating in all State/Federal activities that would or could directly, or indirectly affect the citizens of Franklin County. You specifically asked to be notified of any NRC activities that would include plans for land acquisitions, affect land use and land management plans, or the creation of environmental assessments or impact statements, under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

NRC is an independent agency which regulates the commercial use of radioactive materials within the United States. As such, NRC licenses and inspects facilities falling under NRC's jurisdiction as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. NRC itself does not conduct activities that cause the creation or revision of land acquisition, land use or land management plans. NRC is not involved in State, County or Local governmental issues, unless they conflict with NRC regulations. Individual licensees or license applicants are responsible for satisfying all applicable facility siting requirements, in force, at the location or proposed location of their facility.

NRC's licensing process is conducted in public view in that NRC informs the public about licensing activities in several ways. Activities regarding production and utilization facilities are announced in the Federal Register, and major actions regarding amendments or changes to a license are published on the NRC Web Site (<http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing-license-applications.html>). In addition, the NRC will notice major materials licensing actions on the NRC Web Site. NRC notifies the public and interested stakeholders of the receipt of licensee applications, license amendment requests, and NRC licensing decisions in the Federal Register, under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Federal Register is published daily and may be accessed electronically at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> and is word searchable. Additional public outreach activities are conducted if an Environmental Impact Statement is developed as part of a licensing review. Specifically, local newspaper ads and local public meetings are typically used to solicit public input.

With regard to activities related to the nearby Columbia Generating Station, we can add your name and address to the NRC distribution list for licensing actions associated with the Columbia Generating Station. This would ensure that all correspondence involving the Columbia Generating Station would be sent directly to you. If you would like to add Franklin County to the NRC distribution list, please contact the Project Manager for the Columbia Generating Station, William Macon at (301) 415-3965 or WAM1@NRC.GOV, with the name of the person who should be added and their address.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions, please contact P. L. Eng of my staff at (301) 415-7206 or PLE@NRC.GOV

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

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/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office State and Tribal Programs

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***See previous concurrence.**

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