



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

May 21, 2004

EA 04-101

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968; MD 1023
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

**SUBJECT: ONGOING REVIEW OF COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - NRC
INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 05000397/2003007 DENIED
NONCITED VIOLATION (50-397/03-07-01)**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2004, in response to our January 30, 2004, letter and integrated inspection report concerning use of nonsafety related instrument air during main steam isolation valve local leak rate testing. A noncited violation (NCV 50-397/03-07-01) had been identified for inadequate local leak rate testing due to the use of the nonsafety related instrument air.

In response to Noncited Violation 50-397/03-07-01, Energy Northwest requested that the NRC withdraw the noncited violation based on the belief that the applicable NRC regulations (10 CFR Part 50 Appendix J, III.C.1) and other industry codes, that discuss closing valves for local leak rate testing, are subject to interpretation with respect to the required qualification of the motive source used to close the valves. We understand that although Energy Northwest has denied the noncited violation, that Energy Northwest will perform the main steam isolation valve local leak rate testing using the safety related air as a conservative method for ensuring the main steam isolation valves are capable of performing their intended safety function.

The NRC is reviewing your response to Noncited Violation 50-397/03-07-01 and will inform you by a separate letter in the future of the results of our review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

William B. Jones, Chief
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Energy Northwest

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Docket: 50-397

License: NPF-21

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ADAMS: ☒ Yes ☐ No Initials: __WBJ__

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