

August 31, 2004
GO2-04-149

U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Subject: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET 50-397
COMMITMENT CLARIFICATION
SAND POCKET DRAIN HUMIDITY MONITORING**

- References: (1) Letter GO2-88-035, dated February 8, 1988, GC Sorensen (Energy Northwest) to NRC, Response to Generic Letter 87-05, Assessment of Measures to Mitigate and/or Identify Potential Degradation of Containment
- (2) Letter GO2-91-066, dated April 5, 1991, GC Sorensen (Energy Northwest) to NRC, Response to Generic Letter 87-05, Assessment of Measures to Mitigate and/or Identify Potential Degradation of Containment

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a result of a review performed of commitments associated with measures established to identify and mitigate potential degradation of containment, a commitment was identified that requires clarification.

The Energy Northwest response to NRC Generic Letter 87-05 (Reference 1) included a commitment that humidity levels in each sand pocket drain line will be monitored prior to refueling pool flood-up and after pool draining to assure that no new moisture is being introduced into the sand pocket region due to refueling activities. A subsequent letter (Reference 2) from Energy Northwest to the NRC included a statement that inferred that this monitoring was performed twice yearly on all eight sand pocket drain lines for detection of increased moisture levels. At the time of this letter, annual refueling outages were performed so use of the term "twice yearly" was appropriate. However, now that refueling outages are performed on a two-year frequency this term is incorrect and should be deleted.

As noted in the original response, the intent of the humidity measurement commitment was to assure that no new moisture was being introduced due to refueling activities. As required by plant procedures, the humidity measurement continues to be performed

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prior to refueling pool flood-up and after pool draining. With this clarification, the original commitment (Reference 1) remains valid and its intent has not been changed.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at (509) 377-4342.

Respectfully,



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