



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

January 14, 2005

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

**SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING  
EXAMINATION RETAKE 05000397/2005-301**

In a telephone conversation on January 12, 2005, between Mr. Steve Hutchison, Operations Training Specialist and Mr. Mark Haire, Chief Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Columbia Generating Station during the week of May 23, 2005.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your support for onsite validation of the examinations will be required on May 24, 2005.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by January 26, 2005. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 to ES-201 will be due by March 28, 2005. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E to NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024),

and waiver requests (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by OMB, under approval number 3150-0018, which expires on June 30, 2006. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to [BJS1@nrc.gov](mailto:BJS1@nrc.gov); and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Electronic Reading Room page of the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Hutchison has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Haire at 817-860-8117, or myself at 817-860-8159.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-397  
License: NPF-21

cc:

W. Scott Oxenford (Mail Drop PE04)  
Vice President, Nuclear Generation  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Albert E. Mouncer (Mail Drop PE01)  
Vice President, Corporate Services/  
General Counsel/CFO  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Chairman  
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
P.O. Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Douglas W. Coleman (Mail Drop PE20)  
Manager, Regulatory Programs  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Gregory V. Cullen (Mail Drop PE20)  
Supervisor, Licensing  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Chairman  
Benton County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 190  
Prosser, WA 99350-0190

Dale K. Atkinson (Mail Drop PE08)  
Vice President, Technical Services  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Thomas C. Poindexter, Esq.  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Energy Northwest

- 4 -

Bob Nichols  
Executive Policy Division  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Lynn Albin, Radiation Physicist  
Washington State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 7827  
Olympia, WA 98504-7827

Electronic distribution by RIV:  
Regional Administrator (**BSM1**)  
DRP Director (**ATH**)  
DRS Director (**DDC**)  
DRS Deputy Director (**vacant**)  
Senior Resident Inspector (**ZKD**)  
Branch Chief, DRP/E (**WBJ**)  
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/E (**VGG**)  
Team Leader, DRP/TSS (**RVA**)  
RITS Coordinator (**KEG**)

SISP Review Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ ADAMS:  Yes  No Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Publicly Available  Non-Publicly Available  Sensitive  Non-Sensitive

OE:OB	C:OB			
MHaire/lmb	ATGody			
/RA/	/RA/			
1/14/2005	1/14/2005			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

T=Telephone

E=E-mail

F=Fax