



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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May 3, 2005

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

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOWUP LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On April 28, 2005, the NRC staff completed, as part of our quarterly review, an update of our assessment of Columbia Generating Station. The assessment evaluated performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your safety performance during this period and our plans for a future inspection at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supercede, our annual assessment letter issued on March 2, 2005.

Our review of Columbia Generating Station identified that you have crossed the threshold from Green to White for the Safety System Unavailability (high pressure core spray) performance indicator. This threshold was exceeded when the high pressure core spray pump was rendered inoperable following discovery of a degraded air deflector shield. The period of inoperability was approximately 11 days and caused the Green/White threshold to be exceeded.

As a result, we have assessed the Columbia Generating Station performance to be in the Regulatory Response Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix. Therefore, we plan to implement Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs In a Strategic Performance Area," during the week of August 29, 2005. The purpose of this inspection is to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of the high pressure core spray performance issues are understood, that the extent of condition and extent of cause are identified, and that Energy Northwest's corrective actions are sufficient to address the root causes and contributing causes and to prevent recurrence.

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

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Please contact William B. Jones at 817/860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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License: NPF-21

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SISP Review Completed: __wbj__ ADAMS: : Yes ☐ No Initials: __wbj__
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