



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

August 30, 2005

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

**SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On August 4, 2005, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Columbia Generating Station for the first half of the calendar year 2005 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility in order for you to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and two White PIs. One White PI was within the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone (Safety System Unavailability, High Pressure Injection System (HPIS)). The second White PI was within the Initiating Events Cornerstone (Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours). Supplemental inspections will be conducted for both of these White PIs to assess the root cause, extent of cause and condition, and corrective actions. These supplemental inspections will be performed in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area."

In our annual assessment letter dated March 2, 2005, we advised you of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of human performance. Human performance errors, involving a causal factor of personnel performance, contributed to a number of Green findings in several cornerstones. Multiple Green findings with the same causal factor continued to be identified throughout this assessment period.

As stated in the annual assessment letter, inspection findings identified in 2004 principally involved instances of failing to follow procedures or a lack of understanding of the procedural requirements and the impact on plant operations. Findings related to this substantive crosscutting issue previously resulted in either plant transients or scrams. Findings identified during this assessment period have similar characteristics and have had similar impacts on plant operations. For example, a maintenance technician failed to verify the configuration of a lifted lead, which resulted in a loss of reactor feedwater and a reactor scram.

The NRC has assessed the actions that Energy Northwest has taken to address human performance. Our inspections indicate that improvements have been made, particularly in the area of operator performance. However, continued NRC focus is warranted in order to determine whether similarly appropriate improvements are made in other applicable areas, such as maintenance. As a result, we will focus our inspections on Energy Northwest's actions within these areas through implementation of the baseline inspection program. This heightened focus will continue until our inspections indicate that your actions have resulted in improved performance, specifically with regard to errors that result in consequential impacts on the plant.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2007. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the early resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publically Available Records (PARs) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (The Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Claude Johnson at (817) 860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,



Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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License: NPF-21

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station
Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
W. Scott Oxenford (Mail Drop PE04)
Vice President, Technical Services
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, Nuclear Generation
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Energy Northwest

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William A. Horin, Esq.
Winston & Strawn
1700 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3817

Matt Steuerwalt
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

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30339

**Columbia Generating Station
Inspection / Activity Plan
08/01/2005 - 03/31/2007**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
2	ALARA3 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/15/2005	08/19/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	PEB-07B - HX PERFORMANCE		1			
	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		08/29/2005	09/02/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	EB21/02 - SSD&PCI/50.59		5			
	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		10/03/2005	10/07/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		10/03/2005	10/07/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		10/17/2005	10/21/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	OB-EP2 - EMERG PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM INSPECTION		1			
	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	PEB-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION		4			
	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		03/13/2006	03/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		03/27/2006	03/31/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	ACRSA - ACCESS CONTROL TO RAD SIGNIFICANT AREAS		1			
	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		05/15/2006	05/19/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	ALARA1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/10/2006	07/14/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	OB-EP EX - EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		3			
	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	EB - PERMANENT MODS/50.59		3			
	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		10/02/2006	10/06/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		10/02/2006	10/06/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	PEB - MAINTENANCE RULE BIENNIAL		1			
	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		10/23/2006	10/27/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	OB-RQ - COLUMBIA REQUALIFICATION INSP		3			
	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		10/30/2006	11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	OB-INIT - COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM		6			
	X02296	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/06)		10/30/2006	11/04/2006	Not Applicable
2	X02296	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/06)		11/27/2006	12/08/2006	Not Applicable

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Columbia Generating Station
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 08/01/2005 - 03/31/2007**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Type
PIR - PIR INSPECTION					
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	5	02/26/2007 03/02/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		03/12/2007 03/16/2007	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

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- D. Collins, Chief, PDIV-2, NRR/DLPM (**DXC1**)
- B. Benney, NRR Project Manager (**BJB**)

SISP Review Completed: *COJ* ADAMS: Yes No Initials: *COJ*
 Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available Sensitive Non-Sensitive

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