



# ENERGY NORTHWEST

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10 CFR 50.55a

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

Subject: **COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397  
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI)  
REGARDING REQUEST 3ISI-09**

- References: 1) Letter dated October 9, 2008, SK Gambhir (Energy Northwest) to NRC, "Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program Request 3ISI-09"
- 2) Letter dated November 14, 2008, CF Lyon (NRR) to JV Parrish (Energy Northwest), "Request for Additional Information Related to Request for Relief 3ISI-09 (TAC NO. MD 9850)"

Dear Sir or Madam:

By the letter of Reference 1, Energy Northwest submitted Relief Request 3ISI-09 for Columbia Generating Station. The request is to use an alternative to American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, Sub Article IWB-2500 to allow reduced percentage requirements for nozzle to vessel weld and inner radius examinations. Subsequent to submittal of Request 3ISI-09, an RAI (Reference 2) was received from NRC staff reviewing the submittal requesting confirmation of two items. Energy Northwest's response is contained in the Attachment hereto.

There are no new commitments made in this RAI response. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact MC Humphreys at 509 377-4025.

Respectfully,

SK Gambhir  
Vice President, Technical Services

Attachment: Response to RAI

cc: EE Collins, Jr. – NRC RIV  
NRC Senior Resident Inspector/988C  
WA Horin – Winston & Strawn

RN Sherman – BPA/1399  
CF Lyon – NRC NRR

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NRR

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Attachment

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**Response to RAI**

In the letter of Reference 2, the staff requested that Energy Northwest confirm the following related to the welds that are listed in request 3ISI-09.

- A. *Previous ultrasonic testing results of the subject welds did not reveal any service induced indications.*

**CGS Response:**

Ultrasonic testing examination results for each of the nozzle-to-vessel welds in Table 1 of request 3ISI-09 were reviewed and it is confirmed that no service induced indications were revealed.

- B. *The type of weld metal used in the subject welds is carbon/low alloy steel.*

**CGS Response:**

The reactor vessel is low alloy steel plate specification SA-533 grade B class 1. The nozzle is low alloy steel forging specification SA-508 class 2. The weld metal used in the welds specified in Table 1 of Attachment 1 to Reference 1 is carbon/low alloy steel.