



ENERGY NORTHWEST

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10CFR 50 Appendix E

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

**Subject: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397
EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM, TRANSITION FROM
MODEM TO VPN**

**Reference: NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2009-13, "Emergency Response Data
System Upgrade From Modem to Virtual Private Network Appliance"**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The following information is being supplied in accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.3.b requirements that any changes that could affect the transmission format and computer communication protocol to the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) must be provided to the NRC at least 30 days prior to the modification. In accordance with the September 28, 2009 Regulatory Issue Summary 09-13, Columbia Generating Station has contacted the ERDS support desk via email and expressed our intention to participate in the voluntary program to transition ERDS from modem-based communications to VPN appliance technology.

Energy Northwest contacted the NRC's ERDS Support Desk on October 26, 2009 to express our interest in participating in this voluntary program and we anticipate a complete transition from the modem to the VPN appliance in the first quarter of 2010, pending coordinated scheduling with the NRC's ERDS transition team.

Upgrade of the ERDS modem represents a voluntary enhancement. There are no regulatory commitments being made in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact MC Humphreys at (509) 377-4025.

Respectfully,

GV Cullen
Manager, Regulatory Programs

cc: EE Collins – NRC RIV
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