

March 4, 2010

Mr. W.S. Oxenford, Senior Vice President,
Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer
Columbia Generating Station
Energy Northwest
MD PE08
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR
DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A
HEARING REGARDING THE APPLICATION FROM ENERGY NORTHWEST
FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING LICENSE FOR THE COLUMBIA
GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Oxenford:

By letter dated January 19, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received Energy Northwest's application for renewal of operating license No. NPF-21 for the Columbia Generating Station (CGS). Notice of receipt of this application was published in the *Federal Register* on February 2, 2010 (75 FR 5353). The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of the license renewal application (LRA) for CGS. The acceptance review determines whether the application contains sufficient information to allow the NRC staff to proceed with the safety and environmental reviews.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application following the guidance in NUREG-1800, Revision 1, "Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants," and NUREG-1555, "Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants." As a result, the NRC staff has determined that the application is sufficient and acceptable for docketing, in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Sections 2.101, 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, 54.23, 51.45, and 51.53(c). However, the staff's determination does not preclude requests for additional information (RAIs) as the review proceeds.

This letter forwards the NRC staff's safety and environmental review schedule for the CGS application (Enclosure 1). The NRC staff will follow established review procedures and the enclosed schedule to complete the reviews required by 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51. This schedule has been established in accordance with a 30-month review plan, which includes time to conduct a hearing, should a hearing be requested and granted. Milestones for hearing activities are not included in the enclosed schedule because these dates, if needed, would be established by the Commission or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

We would like to emphasize that the review of your LRA will be very detailed and thorough. The NRC staff will make every effort to meet the scheduled milestones; thus, your responses to the staff's RAIs, if needed, must be complete and provided in a timely manner. We request that you inform the NRC staff as early as possible should potential delays arise in your support of the schedule.

W. Oxenford

- 2 -

Finally, we have also enclosed a copy of the notice related to your application that is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication (Enclosure 2). This notice announces the opportunity to request a hearing and to file a petition for leave to intervene.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Evelyn Gettys, Project Manager, for the review of the CGS LRA, by telephone at 301-415-4029 or via e-mail at Evelyn.Gettys@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

W. Oxenford

- 2 -

Finally, we have also enclosed a copy of the notice related to your application that is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication (Enclosure 2). This notice announces the opportunity to request a hearing and to file a petition for leave to intervene.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Gettys, Project Manager, for the review of the CGS LRA, by telephone at 301-415-4029 or via e-mail at Evelyn.Gettys@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

ADAMS Accession No: ML100541619

OFFICE	PM:RPB1:DLR	LA:RPOB:DLR	PM:RPB1:DLR	BC:RPB1:DLR
NAME	EGettys	IKing	DDoyle	BPham
DATE	2/25/10	3/3/10	2/26/10	3/3/10
OFFICE	OGC NLO	D:DLR:NRR		
NAME	LSubin	BHolian		
DATE	3/2/10	3/4/10		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to W. Oxenford from B. Holian dated March 4, 2010

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING,
PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING
REGARDING THE APPLICATION FROM ENERGY NORTHWEST, FOR RENEWAL
OF THE OPERATING LICENSES FOR THE COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

DISTRIBUTION:

HARD COPY:

DLR RF

E-MAIL:

PUBLIC

RidsNrrDir Resource

RidsNrrDirRpb1 Resource

RidsNrrDirRpb2 Resource

RidsNrrDirRarb Resource

RidsNrrDirRapb Resource

RidsNrrDirRasb Resource

RidsNrrDirRerb Resource

RidsNrrDirRpob Resource

EGettys

DDoyle

FLyon

BPham

WWalker, RIV

RCohen, RIV

LSubin, OGC

Columbia Generating Station

cc:

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

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

Mr. S. K. Gambhir
Energy Northwest
MD PE04
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Mr. Gregory V. Cullen, Manager,
Regulatory Programs
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
MD PE20
Richland, WA 99352-0968

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

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

Mr. Richard Cowley
Washington State Department of
Health
111 Israel Road, SE
Tumwater, WA 98504-7827

Mr. Ron Cohen
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 69
Richland, WA 99352

Regional Administrator
U.S. NRC Region IV
Texas Health Resources Tower
612 E. Lamar Boulevard, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-4125

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
 REVIEW SCHEDULE

Milestone	Scheduled	Actual
Receive license renewal application (LRA)	1/19/10	1/20/10
Publish Federal Register Notice (FRN) – LRA availability	1/26/10	2/02/10
Publish FRN – acceptance/rejection and opportunity for hearing	3/10/10	
Publish FRN – Intent to conduct Environmental Scoping	3/10/10	
Public Meeting – license renewal overview	4/6/10	
Public Meeting – environmental scoping meeting	4/6/10	
Deadline for filing hearing requests and petitions for intervention	5/14/10	
Environmental scoping period ends	5/14/10	
Audit – Environmental	6/7-11/10	
Audit – Scoping & Screening Methodology	5/10-14/10	
Audit – Aging Management Programs	5/24-6/4	
Inspection – Regional	10/18-22 & 11/1-5/10	
Issue environmental requests for additional information (RAIs)	7/2/10	
Receive responses for environmental RAIs	8/2/10	
Issue safety RAIs	8/02/10	
Receive responses for safety RAIs	9/2/10	
Issue draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS)	12/15/10	
Publish EPA FRN – draft SEIS available for comments	12/22/10	
Public Meeting – draft SEIS meeting	1/12/11	
Issue safety evaluation report (SER) with open items	2/11	
End of draft SEIS comment period	3/7/11	
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee meeting	4/11	
Issue final SER	8/2/11	
ACRS Full Committee meeting	9/11	
Issue final SEIS	7/19/11	
Publish EPA FRN – availability of final SEIS	7/22/11	
Decision – Director, NRR (22 months if no hearing)	11/18/11	
Commission decision (30 months if hearing is granted)	7/18/12	