March 19, 2010

The Honorable Louis Cloud
Yakama Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948-0151

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Chairman Cloud:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Energy Northwest for the renewal of the operating license for the Columbia Generating Station (CGS), located approximately 12 miles northwest of Richland, Washington. CGS is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Yakama Nation. As described below, the NRC's process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, Section 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Yakama Nation to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for CGS will expire on December 20, 2023. Energy Northwest submitted its application for renewal of the CGS operating license in a letter dated January 19, 2010.

The NRC is gathering information for a CGS site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the CGS site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action. Provided for your information is the CGS Site Area Map (Enclosure 1).

To accommodate interested members of the public and inter-governmental officials, the NRC will hold two NEPA scoping meetings for the CGS license renewal supplement to the GEIS on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Richland Public Library, located at 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, Washington 99352. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 3:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 6:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 8:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session.

The CGS license renewal application is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The accession number for the license renewal application is ML100250668. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

The CGS license renewal application is also available on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/columbia.html. In addition, the Richland Public Library, located in Richland, WA, and the Kennewick Branch of Mid-Columbia Libraries, located in Kennewick, WA, have agreed to make the license renewal application available for public inspection.

The GEIS, which documents the NRC's assessment of the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any comments that the Yakama Nation may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by May 14, 2010. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-5B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC via the Federal rulemaking website: http://www.regulations.gov. Search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2010-0029. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher at 301-492-3668 or by e-mail at Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and mail a copy to you.

The NRC staff expects to publish the draft supplement to the GEIS in December 2010. The NRC will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for CGS is planned for July 2011. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Mr. Daniel Doyle, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Site Area Map

cc w/encl: See next page

The NRC staff expects to publish the draft supplement to the GEIS in December 2010. The NRC will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for CGS is planned for July 2011. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Mr. Daniel Doyle, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RA/
Bo Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Site Area Map

cc w/encl: See next page

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*Identical letters have been sent to the following Tribes: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Nez Perce Tribe; Yakama Nation

ADAMS Accession No.: ML100770417

OFFICE	LA:DLR	PM:DLR:RPB1	BC:DLR:RPB1
NAME	Y. Edmonds	D. Doyle	B. Pham
DATE	03/19/10	03/19/10	03/19/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Columbia Generating Station

cc:

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

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

Mr. Douglas W. Coleman, 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

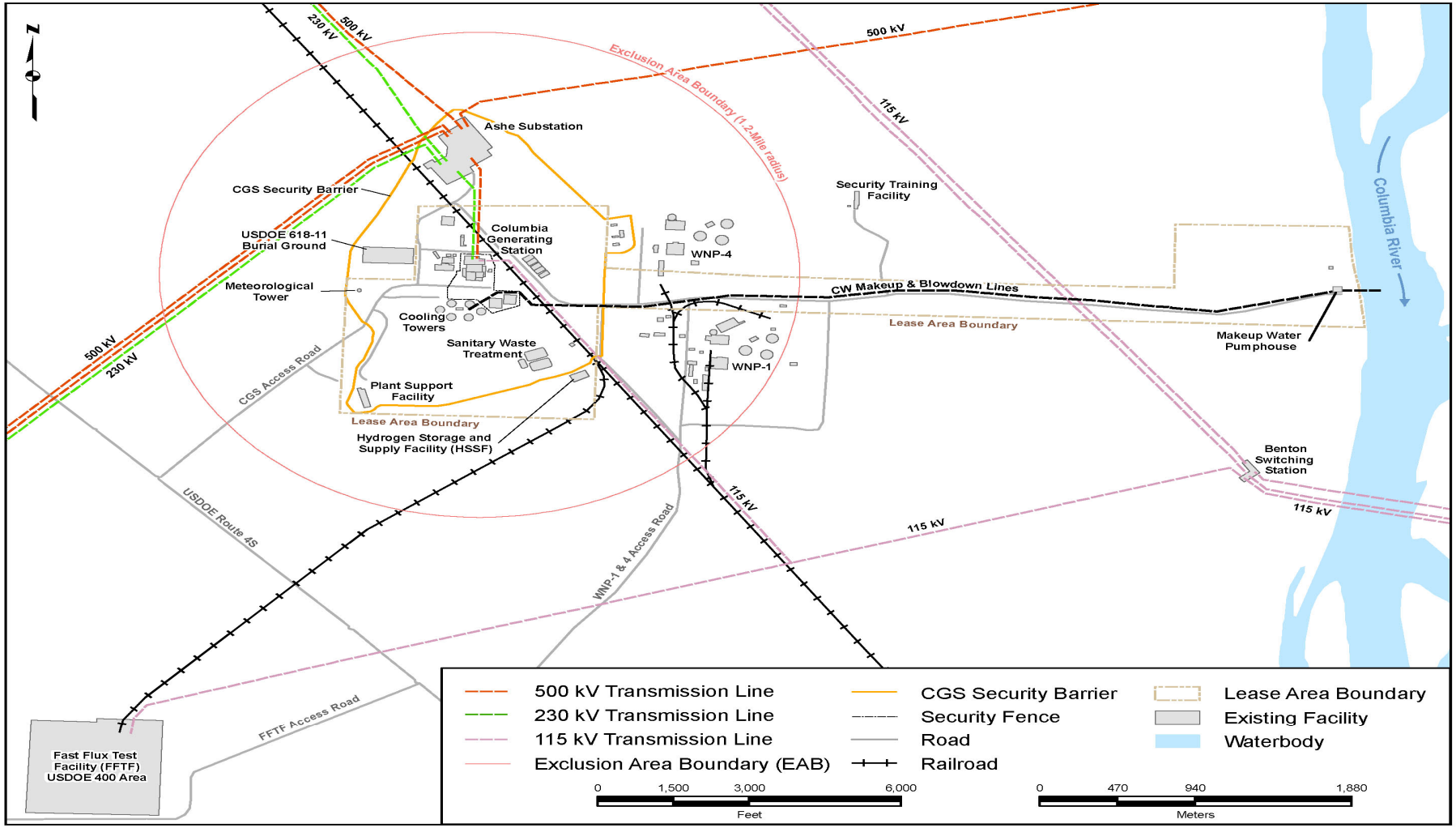
Mr. Ron Cohen
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 69
Richland, WA 99352

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

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

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

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION SITE AREA MAP



ENCLOSURE

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Elwood H. Patawa
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
Indian Reservation
46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801-9467

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Chairman Patawa:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Energy Northwest for the renewal of the operating license for the Columbia Generating Station (CGS), located approximately 12 miles northwest of Richland, Washington. CGS is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. As described below, the NRC's process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, Section 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for CGS will expire on December 20, 2023. Energy Northwest submitted its application for renewal of the CGS operating license in a letter dated January 19, 2010.

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Please submit any comments that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by May 14, 2010. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-5B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC via the Federal rulemaking website: http://www.regulations.gov. Search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2010-0029. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher at 301-492-3668 or by e-mail at Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and mail a copy to you.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Site Area Map

cc w/encl: See next page

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Samuel N. Penney
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Chairman Penney:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Energy Northwest for the renewal of the operating license for the Columbia Generating Station (CGS), located approximately 12 miles northwest of Richland, Washington. CGS is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Nez Perce Tribe.
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Projects Branch 1
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