



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 20, 2010

Mr. Mark E. Reddemann
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION RELATED TO REQUEST FOR RELIEF 3ISI-11
(TAC NO. ME3714)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

By application dated March 11, 2010, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML100770221), Energy Northwest submitted Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program Request for Relief No. 3ISI-11 for Columbia Generating Station. The request was for NRC approval to use the requirements of Electric Power Research Institute's BWRVIP-75-A, "BWR [Boiling-Water Reactor] Vessel and Internals Project, Technical Basis for Revisions to Generic Letter 88-01 Inspection Schedules," dated October 2005 (not publicly available), in lieu of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, and other augmented requirements for the examination of certain nozzle-to-safe end welds and certain dissimilar metal welds for the third 10-year interval ISI program.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in your application and determined that additional information is required in order to complete its review. The enclosed questions were provided to Mr. D. Gregoire of your staff on August 16, 2010. The request originally provided by letter from the NRC dated July 30, 2010 (ADAMS Accession No. ML102040020), incorrectly referenced BWRVIP-108 and ASME Code Case N-702 instead of BWRVIP-75-A in the introductory text. Therefore, this letter is a correction to the original request for additional information. Please provide a response to the questions by October 12, 2010.

The NRC staff considers that timely responses to requests for additional information help ensure sufficient time is available for NRC staff review and contribute toward the NRC's goal of

M. Reddemann

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efficient and effective use of NRC staff resources. If circumstances result in the need to revise the requested response date, please contact me at (301) 415-2296 or by e-mail at fred.lyon@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. F. Lyon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
As stated

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RELATED TO REQUEST FOR RELIEF 3ISI-11

ENERGY NORTHWEST

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-397

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed and evaluated the information submitted by Energy Northwest (the licensee) in its letter dated March 11, 2010 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML100770221), which requested NRC approval of a proposed alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI and other augmented inspection requirements regarding examination of certain nozzle-to-safe end welds and certain dissimilar metal welds at Columbia Generating Station (CGS).

For these welds, the licensee proposes to use the inspection schedules contained in the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI's) BWRVIP-75-A, "BWR [Boiling-Water Reactor] Vessel and Internals Project, Technical Basis for Revisions to Generic Letter 88-01 Inspection Schedules," dated October 2005, as an alternative to the ASME Code requirements. The applicable ASME Code, Section XI Code of record for CGS's third 10-year interval inservice inspection program is the 2001 Edition through the 2003 Addenda, as amended by Section 50.55a of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

The NRC staff requires the following additional information to complete its review of the application.

1. For the volumetric examinations of the components, piping, nozzles, etc., contained in this request for relief, please verify that the licensee is using ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII requirements. If not, please explain.
2. As noted in the licensee's proposed alternative, the frequency of inspections for normal water chemistry will be as defined in the NRC letter dated March 16, 2006, "NRC Approval Letter for BWRVIP-75-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Technical Basis for Revisions to Generic Letter 88-01 Inspection Schedules" (ADAMS Accession No. ML060760028). Please verify that the licensee is using the latest version of the EPRI BWR Water Chemistry Guidelines (BWRVIP-130) for control of the unit's water chemistry. If not, please explain. Please provide a brief discussion of the Hydrogen Water Chemistry, Noble Metal Chemical Addition, etc., in use at CGS.

Enclosure

M. Reddemann

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efficient and effective use of NRC staff resources. If circumstances result in the need to revise the requested response date, please contact me at (301) 415-2296 or by e-mail at fred.lyon@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

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As stated

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