



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

October 25, 2010

LICENSEE: Energy Northwest  
FACILITY: Columbia Generating Station  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 2010, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND ENERGY NORTHWEST, CONCERNING THE DRAFT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NO. ME3058)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) and representatives of Energy Northwest (EN), held a telephone conference call on October 5, 2010, to discuss and clarify the NRC's draft request for additional information (D-RAI) concerning the Columbia Generating Station, license renewal application (LRA).

Enclosure 1 provides a listing of the participants and Enclosure 2 contains a listing of the D-RAIs discussed with the applicant, including a brief description on the status of the items.

The applicant had an opportunity to comment on this summary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn Gettys".

Evelyn Gettys, Project Manager  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:  
As stated

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**TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
October 5, 2010

**PARTICIPANTS**

**AFFILIATIONS**

Evelyn Gettys	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Aloysius Obodoako	NRC
Emma Wong	NRC
Matt Yoder	NRC
Ben Parks	NRC
On Yee	NRC
Abbas Mostala	Energy Northwest (EN)
Doug Ramey	EN
John Twomey	EN
Scott Wood	EN
Marsha Eades	EN
Massoud Tafazzoli	AREVA
Mitch McFarland	AREVA

**TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION  
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

**October 5, 2010**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) and representatives of Energy Northwest, held a telephone conference call on October 5, 2010, to discuss the following draft requests for additional information (D-RAIs) concerning the Columbia Generating Station, license renewal application (LRA).

**Draft RAI B.2.54-1**

Background

Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (SRP-LR) Section A.1.2.3.1, states that the scope of the program should include the specific structures and components of which the program manages the aging.

In addition, SRP-LR Section A.1.2.3.4, states that detection of aging effects should occur before there is a loss of the structure and component intended functions. The parameters to be monitored or inspected should be appropriate to ensure that the structure and component intended functions will be adequately maintained for license renewal under all current licensing basis (CLB) design conditions. This includes aspects such as method or technique (e.g., visual, volumetric, surface inspection), frequency, sample size, data collection and timing of new or one-time inspections to ensure timely detection of aging effects.

In its response dated August 19, 2010, the applicant states that the Boron Carbide Monitoring Program detects degradation of Boron Carbide neutron absorbers in the spent fuel storage racks by B<sub>4</sub>C coupon inspection. The applicant further stated that boron loss is determined through measurement of the boron areal density (i.e., neutron attenuation testing) in the coupons and by insitu areal measurement density techniques, per the corrective action program, such as Boron-10 Areal Density Gauge for Evaluating Racks (BADGER) testing.

Issue

LRA Section B.2.54 does not indicate the number of B<sub>4</sub>C coupons used in the Boron Carbide Monitoring Program and whether or not coupon inspection will be performed in the period of extended operation. Furthermore, the applicant indicated that neutron attenuation testing will be performed, but the frequency of testing was not stated.

1. Indicate the number of B<sub>4</sub>C coupons available for use for the Boron Carbide Monitoring Program and discuss the number of coupons inspected during each inspection and whether coupon inspection will be performed throughout the period extended operation.
  - a. Discuss the location of coupons relative to the spent fuel racks and how the coupons are mounted.

ENCLOSURE 2

- b. Discuss the neutron flux of the coupons relative to that for the fuel assemblies.
  - c. Indicate whether or not the coupons are returned back to the spent fuel pool after inspection.
2. Provide the frequency for which the coupon neutron attenuation testing will be performed.
  3. Provide a commitment in the Table A-1 of the LRA.

**Discussion:** The staff discussed this RAI with the applicant and they understand the staff's question.

#### **Response to RAI XI.S8-1**

**Discussion** – In letter dated August 19, 2010, (ML102440342) the applicant responded to RAI XI.S8-1 that there was no safety impact on the strainer operation from coating debris on the emergency core cooling system. The staff disagrees with this response and the applicant has agreed to amend their response.

#### **Draft RAI 4.2.1**

#### **Background:**

10 CFR 54.3 defines time-limited aging analyses (TLAA) as those licensee calculations and analyses that:

- (1) Involve systems, structures and components within the scope of license renewal, as delineated in 10 CFR 50.54(a);
- (2) Consider the effects of aging;
- (3) Involve time-limited assumptions defined by the current operating term,
- (4) Were determined to be relevant by the licensee in making a safety determination;
- (5) Involve conclusions or provide the basis for conclusions related to the capability of the system, structure, and component to perform its intended functions, and
- (6) Are contained or incorporated by reference in the CLB

Reactor vessel neutron fluence meets all six of these criteria. It is relevant in making a safety determination because its value affects the reference temperature for nil-ductility transition and the reactor coolant system pressure-temperature limits.

#### **Issue:**

The Columbia Generating Station License Renewal Application states that neutron fluence is not a TLAA.

**Request:**

Please revise LRA Section 4.2.1 to indicate the correct categorization of neutron fluence and provide the appropriate disposition in accordance with 10 CFR 54.21(c).

**Discussion:** The staff discussed this draft RAI with the applicant and they understands the staff's question.

**Draft RAI X**

In the LRA Page 3.1-11, Item Number 3.1.1-04, the applicant stated in the "Discussion" column that this is not applicable and Cumulative fatigue damage was not identified as a TLAA for Columbia. The staff needs to know more detail about the "not applicable" and "TLAA not identified".

**Discussion:** The applicant explained that there was no analysis needed per the code. The staff has requested information on the code that was used.

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Evelyn H. Gettys, Project Manager  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
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OFFICE	PM:RPB1:DLR	LA:DLR	BC: RPB1:DLR
NAME	EGettys	YEdmonds	BPham
DATE	10/ /10	10/12/10	10/25/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Energy Northwest from E. Gettys dated October 25, 2010.

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EGettys

DDoyle

FLyon

WWalker, RIV

RCohen, RIV

LSubin, OGC