



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
SEPTEMBER 22, 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 (the applicant), held a telephone conference call on September 22, 2010, to discuss and clarify the NRC's draft request for additional information (D-RAI) concerning the Columbia Generating Station, license renewal application.

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

Enclosures:
As stated

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

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
September 22, 2010

PARTICIPANTS

Evelyn Gettys
Aloysius Obodoako
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AFFILIATIONS

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

September 22, 2010

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) and representatives of Energy Northwest, held telephone conference calls on September 22, 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 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 B₄C 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 instituting areal measurement density techniques, per the corrective action program, such as Boron-10 Areal Density Gauge for Evaluating Racks testing.

Issue:

LRA Section B.2.54 does not indicate the number of B₄C 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.

ENCLOSURE 2

Requests:

1. Indicate the number of B₄C 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 of extended operation.
 - a. Discuss the location of coupons relative to the spent fuel racks and how the coupons are mounted.
 - 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 Table A-1 of the LRA.

Discussion: The staff discussed the D-RAI with the applicant. A formal RAI will be issued.

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/RA/

Evelyn Gettys, Project Manager
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Memo to Energy Northwest from E. Gettys dated October 25, 2010

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