



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

November 30, 2010

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.  
State Archaeologist  
Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 48343  
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(LOG NO.: 121007-20-NRC)

Dear Dr. Whitlam:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering a request submitted by Energy Northwest (the applicant) for the renewal of the operating license for Columbia Generating Station (CGS) in Benton County, Washington.

In a previous letter to your office, dated April 15, 2010, the NRC stated that it considers the Area of Potential (APE) to include the areas as defined in the correspondence between Mr. Gregory Cullen, Energy Northwest, and your office. The correspondence was included as an enclosure to that letter.

In a letter from Energy Northwest to your office dated July 22, 2010, the applicant revised their determination of the project footprint to exclude the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission lines, because the BPA controls the lines and they are not part of the plant's connection to the electrical transmission grid.

At the time, the NRC agreed with that modification to the APE. However, this determination should not have included the 115-kV BPA line which runs 1.8 miles southeast from the plant which the NRC believes should be part of the APE. In order to provide clarification, the following paragraph summarizes the NRC's determination of the APE for this license renewal environmental review.

As part of this license renewal environmental review, the following applicable transmission line corridors will be considered. Energy produced at CGS is delivered to the BPA at the H.J. Ashe Substation located 0.5 mile north of the station. Power from CGS is transmitted to the Ashe Substation via a 2,900-ft long, 280-ft wide transmission line corridor. A separate 1.8 mile 115-kV line provides backup power to CGS during plant shutdowns. This line has a right-of-way width of 90 feet and runs southeast between the CGS switchyard and a tap off the 115-kV line that runs from the Benton Switchyard to the U.S. Department of Energy Fast Flux Test Facility. Please see the enclosed site area map. The transmission line between CGS and the Ashe Substation and the 115-kV transmission line for backup power comprise the transmission lines that the NRC considers to be within the scope of license renewal.

R. Whitlam

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel Doyle, Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at [daniel.doyle@nrc.gov](mailto:daniel.doyle@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett Brady for B Pham".

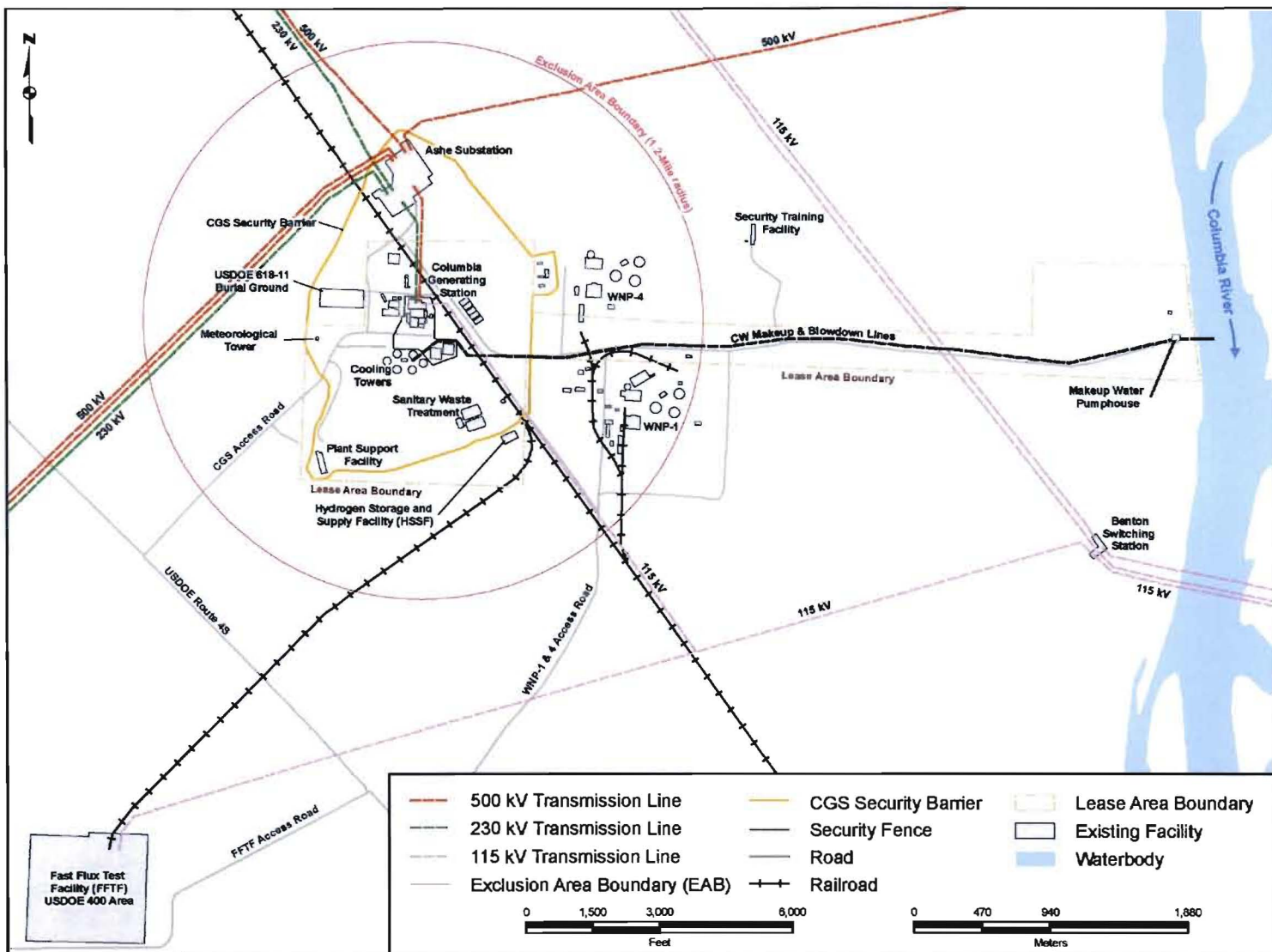
Bo M. Pham, Chief  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:  
Columbia Generating Station Site Area Map

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

Columbia Generating Station Site Area Map



ENCLOSURE

R. Whittlam

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel Doyle, Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at [daniel.doyle@nrc.gov](mailto:daniel.doyle@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RABennett Brady for/***

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

Docket No. 50-397

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Columbia Generating Station Site Area Map

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DATE	11/29/10	11/30/10	11/30/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to R. Whitlam from B. Pham dated November 30, 2010

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(LOG NO.: 121007-20-NRC)

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