UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

March 4, 2011

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION (REPORT 05000397/2011001)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On February 10, 2011, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Columbia Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Columbia Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

While plant performance for the three most recent quarters was within the Licensee Response column of the Action Matrix, there was a safety significant performance indicator affecting the first quarter of the assessment cycle as a result of a white performance indicator for unplanned scrams per 7000 critical hours. A supplemental inspection and Regulatory Performance Meeting was conducted in March 2010 that concluded the root causes of the unplanned reactor scrams were adequately defined, understood, and the corrective actions appropriately addressed the identified causes. NRC staff understands Energy Northwest has implemented corrective actions to address station performance. The NRC will continue to review completed corrective actions and the effectiveness of these actions through focused baseline inspections.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The

inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. Temporary Instruction 2515/177 Inspection, "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems," which remains to be scheduled, will be completed during the 2011 or 2012 calendar year. Regional personnel will contact you to establish an appropriate time for this activity.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Mr. Wayne Walker at 817-860-8148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Kriss M. Kennedy, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-397
License No. NPF-21

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc: Distribution via ListServ

Columbia Generating Stati
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2011 - 06/30/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EXAM	**- INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM**	5
2	03/21/2011	03/25/2011	X02467	INITIAL EXAM - COLUMBIA (04/2011)	
2	04/25/2011	05/06/2011	X02467	INITIAL EXAM - COLUMBIA (04/2011)	
			RP123	**- RADIATION SAFETY**	1
2	04/11/2011	04/22/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	04/11/2011	04/22/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	04/11/2011	04/22/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
2	04/11/2011	04/22/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	04/11/2011	04/22/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			PSB2-08G	**- INSERVICE INSPECTION**	1
2	04/25/2011	05/06/2011	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			RP678	**- RADIATION SAFETY TEAM**	3
2	07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
2	07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
2	07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			EB1-17	**- PERM MODS & 50.59**	3
2	07/18/2011	07/29/2011	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			EP1	**- BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION**	1
2	08/08/2011	08/12/2011	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
2	08/08/2011	08/12/2011	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
2	08/08/2011	08/12/2011	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
2	08/08/2011	08/12/2011	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
2	08/08/2011	08/12/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			TSB-52B	**- BIENNIAL PI&R**	4
2	08/29/2011	09/02/2011	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
2	09/12/2011	09/16/2011	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
			RS12	**- RADIATION SAFETY**	2
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			EB2-05T	**- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION**	5
2	06/11/2012	06/15/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
2	06/25/2012	06/29/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.