



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

September 1, 2011

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION**

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On August 16, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-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 July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. 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.

Overall, Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully 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.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 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 end-of-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.

In the days following the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management

Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident." The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine whether additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records 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 me at 817-860-8148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne C. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wayne" being the most prominent.

Wayne C. Walker,
Chief, Projects Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

Distribution via ListServe

Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			TSB-52B - BIENNIAL PI&R		4
2	08/29/2011	09/02/2011	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
2	09/12/2011	09/16/2011	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			TI-177 - 2515/TI-177: ECCS GAS ACCUMULATION		1
2	12/05/2011	12/09/2011	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
			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		4
2	06/11/2012	06/15/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
2	06/25/2012	06/29/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
			RS34 - RADIATION SAFETY		2
2	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
2	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP EXERCISE		3
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
			BRQ - BRQ INSPECTION		2
2	11/26/2012	11/30/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

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