

# Preliminary Site-Specific Results of the License Renewal Environmental Review for Columbia Generating Station

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September 27, 2011

# Meeting Overview

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- NRC presentation (25 minutes)
  - NRC's regulatory role
  - Summary of environmental review
  - Upcoming milestones
  - How to submit comments after this meeting
  - Other topics
- Q&A (25 minutes)
- Your comments (remaining time)

# NRC's Regulatory Oversight

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- NRC regulates civilian use of nuclear materials, including power plants
- NRC's mission:
  - Protect public health and safety
  - Promote common defense and security
  - Protect the environment

# Environmental Review

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- Generic Environmental Impact Statement addresses issues common to many or all plants
- Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) addresses site-specific issues
- Review proposed action (license renewal) and alternatives

# Impact Levels

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- SMALL – Effects are not detectable or are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource
- MODERATE – Effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not destabilize, important attributes of the resource
- LARGE – Effects are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource

# Site-Specific Environmental Issues of Continued Operation

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Issues	Section	Impact
Land Use	4.1	SMALL
Air Quality	4.2	SMALL
Groundwater Resources	4.3	SMALL
Surface Water Resources	4.4	SMALL
Aquatic Resources	4.5	SMALL
Terrestrial Resources	4.6	SMALL
Special Status Species and Habitats	4.7	SMALL
Human Health	4.8	SMALL
Socioeconomics	4.9	SMALL

# Cumulative Impacts

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- Overall impacts to environment including past, present, and likely future actions
- Preliminary findings (Section 4.11)
  - SMALL to LARGE cumulative impacts on water resources
  - LARGE cumulative impacts on aquatic resources
  - MODERATE cumulative impacts on terrestrial resources

# Cumulative Impacts (cont'd)

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- Preliminary findings (continued)
  - MODERATE cumulative impacts on cultural resources
  - SMALL cumulative impacts in other areas



# Alternatives

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- Alternative energy sources analyzed:
  - Natural gas-fired combined cycle units
  - New nuclear
  - Combination alternative  
(natural gas-fired combined cycle unit,  
hydroelectric, wind, and conservation)
- No action alternative

# Preliminary Conclusion

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The adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Columbia Generating Station are not great enough to deny the option of license renewal for energy-planning decisionmakers.

# Columbia Generating Station Environmental Review Milestones

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Application Submitted	January 20, 2010
Notice of Intent	March 11, 2010
Scoping Public Meeting	April 6, 2010
Scoping Period Ended	May 14, 2010
Scoping Summary Report	December 29, 2010
Draft SEIS	August 23, 2011
Draft SEIS Public Meeting	September 27, 2011
Draft SEIS Comments Due	November 16, 2011
Final SEIS	February 2012

# Additional Information

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- Environmental PM:  
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- Safety PM:  
**Arthur Cunanan**  
**(800) 368-5642, Ext. 3897**  
**arthur.cunanan@nrc.gov**
- The draft SEIS can be viewed at:
  - Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr, Richland, WA
  - Mid-Columbia Libraries—Kennewick Branch  
1620 South Union St, Kennewick, WA
  - Online:  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement47/>

# Submitting Written Comments

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- By mail: Chief, Rules, Announcements,  
and Directives Branch  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001
- Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>  
Search for docket ID NRC-2010-0029
- Fax: 301-492-3446

**Comments due by November 16, 2011**

# NRC Response to Fukushima

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- The NRC's response to Fukushima is as a current operating issue
- Increased inspections at operating facilities
- NRC Near-Term Task Force issued its report on July 12, 2011
  - Continued operations and continued licensing activities do not pose an imminent risk to public health and safety
- Staff paper on prioritization of task force recommendations due October 3, 2011
- More information
  - <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-info.html>

# Submitting Written Comments

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- By mail: Chief, Rules, Announcements,  
and Directives Branch  
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Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M  
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