



RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH

P.O. BOX 2241
Tri-Cities, WA 99302-2241
509-735-8486
1-800-254-5824
Fax 509-783-9005
www.VisitTri-Cities.com
info@VisitTri-Cities.com

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Ms. Cindy Bladey
Rules, Announcement and Directives Branch/ Division of Administrative Services
MS TWB-050B01M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Bladey,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the 704 member businesses of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau to express our support of the Columbia Generating Station which is operated by Energy Northwest.

Tourism is vital to the economy here in the Tri-Cities Region and it is vitally important to our destination marketing efforts that our community is seen as an inviting place for visitors to invest in. In my 19 years as the President and CEO of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau, I have found Energy Northwest to be an excellent corporate community partner. Energy Northwest operates the Columbia River Generating Station in a safe, efficient and responsible manner.

Tourism generates \$349.8 million in visitor spending each year in our region and we are fortunate to have a company like Energy Northwest that understands the importance of public health and safety, operating this important source of low cost, clean energy.

Sincerely,


Kris Watkins
President & CEO

Cc: Mark Reddemann, Energy Northwest

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Add = D. Doyle (dir)
S. Freeman (SZ/1)