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2011 NOV 7 11 3: 26

November 8, 2011

RECEIVED

9/1/2011

76FR54502

(71)

Cindy Bladey
Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch
Office of Administration
Mailstop: TWB-05-BO1M
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Bladey:

We strongly support the renewal of Columbia Generating Station's operating license for an additional 20 years, through 2043. For more than 25 years, Columbia has provided valuable electricity to the region and assisted in bringing economic stability to the state by providing clean, affordable energy to more than one million Washington homes.

Energy Northwest has operated Columbia as a responsible steward of the environment, and in a manner that protects the public's health and safety. The draft supplement to the generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) reaffirmed Columbia's low environmental impact. The power produced by Columbia emits zero greenhouse gases; it has a small facility footprint; and secure on-site storage of used fuel.

As energy demand increases and climate change continues to be a significant public policy issue, a diverse mix of clean energy resources will be critical to meet increasing electricity needs. For these reasons, it is imperative to maintain the vast quantity of carbon-free and baseload power Columbia Generating Station provides.

We fully support Columbia receiving the 20-year license renewal from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and encourage others to voice their support, enabling the region to continue benefiting from this clean, affordable electricity.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Linda R. Gott
President

Bruce E. Jorgenson
Vice President

Thomas J. Farmer
Secretary

LRG/BEJ/TJF:nb

F-REDS-ADM-23

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