

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

September 4, 2012

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING  
STATION (REPORT 05000397/2012006)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On August 14, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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, 2011, through June 30, 2012. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The security inspection plan will be sent via separate correspondence.

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.

Although plant performance was within the Licensee Response Column, the NRC has not yet finalized the significance of Apparent Violations AV 05000397-2012502-01, "Failure to Maintain Accurate EAL Thresholds," and AV 05000397-2012502-02, "Failure to Maintain Accurate Methods for Dose Assessment." Each of these apparent violations affects the Emergency Preparedness cornerstone. The final safety significance determination may affect the NRC's assessment of plant performance and the enclosed inspection plan.

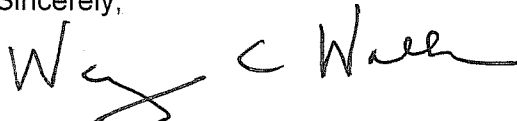
In its assessment letter dated March 5, 2012 (ML 120610370), the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the work practices component of the human performance cross-cutting area associated with failure to implement human error prevention techniques [H.4(a)]. To address the SCCI, your staff continued to implement a comprehensive corrective action plan. The NRC has not reviewed your corrective actions. Therefore, the SCCI will remain open until the NRC completes a follow-up baseline inspection, scheduled for October, 2012, to assess the effectiveness of your corrective actions. The NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing the SCCI through baseline inspections.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. In addition to the baseline inspections, consistent with the Agency's actions related to Fukushima, the NRC will perform TI-187, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns," and TI-188, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns." 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 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 me at (817) 200-1148 with any questions you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne C. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and a distinct "C" and "Walker".

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

Docket No.: 05000397  
License No.: NFP21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/Enclosure: Electronic Distribution

Columbia Generating Stati  
 Inspection / Activity Plan  
 09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
2	03/01/2012 12/31/2012	2515/182 - UNDERGROUND PIPING PHASE 1	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	2
2	07/01/2012 12/31/2012	2515/187 - FLOODING WALKDOWNS	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	2
2	07/01/2012 12/31/2012	2515/188 - SEISMIC WALKDOWNS	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns	2
2	01/14/2013 01/18/2013	EXAM INITIAL EXAM- COLUMBIA (03/10/2012)		5
2	02/04/2013 02/15/2013	EXAM INITIAL EXAM- COLUMBIA (03/10/2012)		5
2	11/26/2012 11/30/2012	BRQ - BRQ INSPECTION	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	2
2	01/01/2013 06/30/2013	2515/182 - UNDERGROUND PIPING PHASE 1	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	2
2	01/01/2013 12/31/2013	2515/187 - FLOODING WALKDOWNS	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	2
2	01/01/2013 12/31/2013	2515/188 - SEISMIC WALKDOWNS	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns	2
2	03/25/2013 03/29/2013	EB1-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION	Heat Sink Performance	1
2	05/13/2013 05/24/2013	PSB2-ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	1
2	05/28/2013 06/05/2013	PSB2-ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	1
2	05/28/2013 06/08/2013	PSB2-ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	1
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	PSB2-RP - RADIATION SAFETY	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	2
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71124.01	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
2	06/24/2013 07/12/2013	PI&R 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R	Problem Identification and Resolution	4

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

Columbia Generating Stati  
 Inspection / Activity Plan  
 09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

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Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
2	07/29/2013 08/30/2013	<b>EB1-21</b> IP 7111121	<b>- COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION</b> Component Design Bases Inspection	6
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	<b>EP1</b> IP 7111402	<b>- BIENNIAL PROGRAM INSPECTION</b> Alert and Notification System Testing	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	<b>PSB2-RP</b> IP 71124.05	<b>- RADIATION SAFETY</b> Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	4
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	

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