



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO HOLD REGULATORY CONFERENCE WITH ENERGY NORTHWEST ON COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a regulatory conference with Energy Northwest officials on Sept. 20 to discuss the significance of three inspection findings at the Columbia Generating Station. The plant is located near Richland, Wash.

The NRC and Energy Northwest officials will discuss three inspection findings associated with the site's emergency preparedness program. Specifically, the licensee incorrectly calculated emergency action levels on several occasions which could have delayed recognition of some radiological emergency conditions, and incorporated incorrect data into site dose assessment software that caused some dose assessments to be inaccurate. These conditions existed from 2000 until 2011 when they were corrected.

The meeting, which will be open to public observation, will begin at 1 p.m. in the NRC's Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The public will have an opportunity to observe and ask questions of NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned. Members of the public can listen to the meeting via a special telephone line by calling 1-800-952-9677 and ask to be connected to the meeting.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color coded process that classifies regulatory findings as green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC staff has preliminarily determined that the significance of the violation is "greater than green," meaning it has a greater than very low safety significance.

No decision on the final significance of the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action will be made during the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later date.

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