UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 15, 2012

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

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGUARDING LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT PRNM/ARTS/MELLLA (TAC NO. ME7905)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

By letter dated January 31, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML120400144), as supplemented by letters dated July 31, 2012, and September 12, 2012 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML12219A255 and ML12248A136, respectively), Energy Northwest (the licensee) submitted a license amendment request for Columbia Generating Station that would allow the licensee to expand the operating domain by the implementation of Average Power Range Monitor/Rod Block Monitor/Technical Specifications/Power Range Neutron Monitoring/Maximum Extended Load Line Limit Analysis (ARTS/PRNM/MELLLA). The Neutron Monitoring System would be modified by replacing the analog Average Power Range Monitor subsystem with the Nuclear Measurement Analysis and Control (NUMAC) Power Range Neutron Monitoring System. The licensee would expand the operating domain to Maximum Extended Load Line Limit Analysis (MELLLA) and make changes to certain allowable values and limits and to technical specifications. The changes to the technical specifications include the adoption of Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) Change Traveler TSTF-493, "Clarify Application of Setpoint Methodology for LSSS [Limiting Safety System Setting] Functions," Option A surveillance notes. Furthermore, the amendment would allow a change in the licensing basis to support Anticipated Transient without Scram accident mitigation with one Standby Liquid Control pump instead of two.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the information provided by the licensee and determined that additional information identified in the enclosure to this letter is needed in order for the NRC staff to complete its review. The draft copy of the request for additional information was provided to Mr. Zachary Dunham of your staff via e-mail on September 17, 2012. Please provide a response within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-1056 or via e-mail at lauren.gibson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kate Gibson

Lauren K. Gibson, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

TO IMPLEMENT PRNM/ARTS/MELLLA

ENERGY NORTHWEST

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-397

By letter dated January 31, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML120400144), as supplemented by letters dated July 31, 2012, and September 12, 2012 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML12219A255 and ML12248A136, respectively), Energy Northwest (the licensee) submitted a license amendment request for Columbia Generating Station that would allow the licensee to expand the operating domain by the implementation of Average Power Range Monitor/Rod Block Monitor/Technical Specifications/Power Range Neutron Monitoring/Maximum Extended Load Line Limit Analysis (ARTS/PRNM/MELLLA). The Neutron Monitoring System would be modified by replacing the analog Average Power Range Monitor subsystem with the Nuclear Measurement Analysis and Control (NUMAC) Power Range Neutron Monitoring System. The licensee would expand the operating domain to Maximum Extended Load Line Limit Analysis (MELLLA) and make changes to certain allowable values and limits and to technical specifications. The changes to the technical specifications include the adoption of Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) Change Traveler TSTF-493, "Clarify Application of Setpoint Methodology for LSSS [Limiting Safety System Setting] Functions," Option A surveillance notes. Furthermore, the amendment would allow a change in the licensing basis to support Anticipated Transient without Scram accident mitigation with one Standby Liquid Control pump instead of two.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the submitted information and determined that the following information is needed in order for the staff to complete its evaluation.

1. In the submittal, there is information related to verification and validation (V&V) of the software for this upgrade, but there does not appear to be information related to V&V of the operator actions. Please describe the on-site validation of the system, with the revised procedures, and trained operators.

2. Please describe the long-term human performance monitoring program, if any, and how this modification affects it.

Enclosure

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-1056 or via e-mail at lauren.gibson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lauren K. Gibson, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:
PUBLIC
LPLIV Reading
RidsAcrsAcnw_MailCTR Resource
RidsNrrDorlLpl4 Resource
RidsNrrDraAhpb Resource
RidsNrrPMColumbia Resource
RidsNrrLAJBurkhardt Resource
RidsOgcRp Resource
RidsRgn4MailCenter Resource
MKeefe, NRR/DRA/AHPB

ADAMS Accession No. ML12283A269 *via email **via memo

OFFICE	NRR/LPL4/PM	NRR/LPL4/LA	NRR/DRA/AHPB/BC	NRR/LPL4/BC	NRR/LPL4/PM
NAME	LKGibson	JBurkhardt*	UShoop**	MMarkley	LKGibson
DATE	10/11/12	10/11/12	9/11/12	10/12/12	10/15/12

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY