



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

March 4, 2013

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 05000397/2012801)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On February 12, 2013, the NRC completed its end-of-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 January 1, 2012, through December 31, 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 NRC determined the performance at Columbia Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because the NRC issued two White inspection findings in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone during this assessment period. The findings involved your station's failure to maintain a standard emergency action level scheme and a failure to maintain adequate methods for assessing the consequences of a radiological emergency condition. Columbia Generating Station entered the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix beginning on June 27, 2012, the date the preliminary findings were discussed with your staff at the exit meeting for Inspection Report 05000397/2012502.

On January 24, 2013, your staff notified the NRC by telephone and subsequently by letter dated February 6, 2013, of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the performance issues associated with the two White inspection findings. Therefore, in addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95002, "Supplemental Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," beginning on March 18, 2013. This supplemental inspection will determine whether or not the root and contributing causes of the performance issues are understood, the extent of condition and extent of cause of risk-significant performance issues are identified, whether safety culture components caused or significantly contributed to the risk-significant performance issues and that the corrective actions for risk-significant performance issues are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes and prevent recurrence.

In our previous assessment letter dated March 5, 2012 (ML120610379), the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue in the human performance area associated with the work practices component related to the use of human error prevention techniques [H.4(a)].

To address this theme, your staff implemented corrective actions including completion of a root cause analysis, high intensity training for operators, reinforcement of co-worker coaching and completion of a station-wide practical focused on worker error prevention techniques. On October 1-5, 2012, the NRC conducted a follow-up inspection of your staff's actions to address the substantive cross-cutting aspect in human performance work practices. The NRC noted that only one finding with an H.4(a) cross-cutting aspect has been identified since your staff implemented these corrective actions. The NRC determined that these results demonstrate sustainable performance improvements that are evidenced by effective implementation of an appropriate corrective action plan that has resulted in no safety-significant inspection findings and a reduction in the overall number of inspection findings with the same common theme. On the basis of these results, the NRC is closing this substantive cross-cutting issue.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2014. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-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. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

From January 1 to December 31, 2012, the NRC issued one Severity Level III traditional enforcement violation for a failure to notify the NRC of a major loss of emergency assessment capabilities that was associated with impeding the regulatory process. Therefore, the NRC plans to follow-up on this violation in conjunction with Inspection Procedure 95002, "Supplemental Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," scheduled for March 18, 2013.

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 Wayne Walker at 817-200-1148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Elmo E. Collins

Regional Administrator, Region IV

Docket No. 05000397
License No. NPF-21

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

**Columbia Generating Stati
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2013 - 06/30/2014**

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Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
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	03/18/2013 03/22/2013	CGS95002 - CGS 95002		6
2	03/25/2013 03/29/2013	IP 95002	Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Perfor	2
2	05/13/2013 05/24/2013	EB1-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION	Heat Sink Performance	1
2	05/28/2013 06/05/2013	IP 7111107T		1
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	PSB2-ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	1
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 7111108G		1
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	PSB2-ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	1
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 7111108G		1
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	PSB2-ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	2
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 7111108G		2
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	PSB2-RP - RADIATION SAFETY	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	4
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71124.01		4
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	4
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	4
2	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	4
2	06/24/2013 06/28/2013	PI&R 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R		4
2	07/08/2013 07/12/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	4
2	07/08/2013 07/12/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	4
2	07/29/2013 08/30/2013	EB1-21 - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION	Component Design Bases Inspection	7
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 7111121		7
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	EP1 - BIENNIAL PROGRAM INSPECTION	Alert and Notification System Testing	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 7111402	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 7111403	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	1
2	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 7111405		1
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	PSB2-RP - RADIATION SAFETY	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	4
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.05	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	4

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

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03/01/2013 - 06/30/2014**

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Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
		PSB2-RP - RADIATION SAFETY		4
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	
		EB1-17T - TRIENNIAL PERM PLANT MODS & 50.59		3
2	06/16/2014 06/27/2014	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
		RS24 - RADIATION SAFETY		2
2	06/16/2014 06/20/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	06/16/2014 06/20/2014	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	

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