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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Subject: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397
ENERGY NORTHWEST'S INITIAL STATUS REPORT IN RESPONSE TO
MARCH 12, 2012 COMMISSION ORDER MODIFYING LICENSES WITH
REGARD TO RELIABLE SPENT FUEL POOL INSTRUMENTATION**

**Reference: 1. NRC Order Number EA-12-051, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to
Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation**

**2. NRC Interim Staff Guidance JLD-ISG-2012-03, Compliance with Order
EA-12-051, Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation, Rev 0, August 29, 2012**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 12, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued the referenced Order (Reference 1) to Columbia Generating Station (Columbia). Reference 1 directs Columbia to have reliable spent fuel pool level instrumentation. Specific requirements are outlined in Attachment 2 of Reference 1. Full implementation is required no later than either two refueling cycles after submittal of the overall integrated plan or by December 31, 2016, whichever comes first.

Reference 1 requires submission of an initial status report 60 days following issuance of the final interim staff guidance. The purpose of this letter is to provide the initial status report pursuant to Section IV, Condition C.2, of Reference 1 within 60 days following issuance of Reference 2. This report confirms Energy Northwest, the licensee for Columbia, has received Reference 2 and is in the process of evaluating the guidance for the purpose of providing a reliable indication of the water level in the spent fuel storage pool as described in Attachment 2 of Reference 1.

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Major activities completed during this reporting period:

- Identification of resources and initiation of project plans, including development of milestones, to assure compliance with Reference 1.
- Continued participation with industry in selecting a technology to be used and parameters to be considered.

Planned activities for the next six months:

- Development and submittal of the overall integrated plan.
- Development of a conceptual design.

No technical difficulties have been identified at this time that could affect the ability to provide the February 28, 2013, submittal.

Project milestones scheduled through completion of installation and testing:

- A project milestones schedule will be provided with the overall integrated plan.
- Implementation of the order will be completed for Columbia prior to startup from Refueling Outage R22. This outage is scheduled to begin on May 1, 2015.

There are no new commitments contained in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Mr. Z. K. Dunham at (509) 377-4735.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the date of this letter.

Respectfully,



D. A. Swank
Assistant Vice President, Engineering

cc: NRC Region IV Administrator
NRC NRR Project Manager
NRC Senior Resident Inspector/988C
AJ Rapacz – BPA/1399