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July 2, 2013
GO2-13-093

10 CFR 50.75(f)(1)

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

**Subject: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
2013 DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING STATUS REPORT**

References: 1) Letter GO2-13-051 dated March 28, 2013, DW Gregoire (Energy Northwest) to NRC, "Decommissioning Fund Status Report."
2) Email dated June 6, 2013, Lauren Gibson (NRC) to LL Williams (Energy Northwest), "Draft Request for Additional Information 2013 Decommissioning Funding Status Report for Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station Docket Number 50-397."

Dear Sir or Madam:

Energy Northwest submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the Decommissioning Fund Status Report including estimated decommissioning costs for Columbia Generating Station and plant decommissioning fund balance corresponding to the end of calendar year 2012 (Reference 1).

The NRC provided a request for additional information (RAI) (Reference 2) related to information submitted by Energy Northwest in Reference 1. Transmitted herewith in Attachment 1 is the Energy Northwest response to the RAI.

There are no commitments being made to the NRC by this letter. Should you have any questions or require additional information pertaining to these RAI responses, please contact Ms. L.L. Williams at (509) 377-8148.

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NRR

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Respectfully,



DW Gregoire
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Attachment 1 – Response to Request for Additional Information

cc: NRC Region IV Administrator
NRC NRR Project Manager
NRC Sr. Resident Inspector - 988C
WA Horin - Winston & Strawn (email)
AJ Rapacz – BPA/1399 (email)

**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING
2013 DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING STATUS REPORT**

Attachment 1

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Response to Request for Additional Information

NRC Request:

1. On March 28, 2013, Energy Northwest provided the amount accumulated in the decommissioning trust fund at the end of the calendar year preceding the date of the report for the items included in 10 CFR 50.75 (b) and (c). As reported by Energy Northwest, the fund balance as of December 31, 2012, was \$183.9 million. In the March 28th submittal, Energy Northwest states "the value for the estimated decommissioning cost as of December 31, 2012, does not include state costs or ISFSI decommissioning costs. Decommissioning costs for the ISFSI were submitted separately in December 17, 2012." Please confirm that all of the \$183.9 million are exclusively for radiological decommissioning. If not, please indicate what portion of the accumulated fund balances are for radiological decommissioning activities only. Please specify if any of the \$183.9 million for Columbia Generating Station is for non-radiological decommissioning costs such as spent fuel management or other non-radiological decommissioning activities.

Per 10 CFR 50.75(f)(1), licensees must identify "the amount accumulated to the end of the calendar year preceding the date of the report." This actual amount is dedicated for NRC decommissioning activities as defined in 10 CFR 50.2.

Energy Northwest Response:

The reported fund balance as of December 31, 2012, of \$183.9 million, is exclusively for addressing Columbia Generating Station's radiological decommissioning costs. These funds are not associated with the funds set aside for addressing State costs or spent fuel management costs.

NRC Request:

2. Please indicate if the amount of decommissioning funds identified in the March 28, 2013, submittal of the Energy Northwest DFS report are for the after-tax amounts of decommissioning funds accumulated through December 31, 2012. If not, please provide the after-tax amounts of decommissioning funds accumulated through December 31, 2012.

On March 28, 2013, Energy Northwest reported the amounts of decommissioning funds accumulated as of December 31, 2012, for the Columbia Generating Station but did not indicate if the amounts stated were the before or after-tax balances.

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The provisions of 10 CFR 50.75(f) (1) and (2) require the licensee to report the amount of funds accumulated to the end of the calendar year preceding the report.

Energy Northwest Response:

Energy Northwest is a tax-exempt entity. The reported value of \$183.9 million represents the after-tax amount of funds accumulated as of December 31, 2012.