



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

November 7, 2013

Mr. Mark E. Reddemann
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
MD 1023
North Power Plant Loop
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - INTERIM STAFF EVALUATION AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE OVERALL INTEGRATED PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDER EA-12-051, RELIABLE SPENT FUEL POOL INSTRUMENTATION (TAC NO. MF0797)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On March 12, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12054A679), to all power reactor licensees and holders of construction permits in active or deferred status. This order requires the licensee to have a reliable indication of the water level in associated spent fuel storage pools capable of supporting identification of the following pool water level conditions by trained personnel: (1) level that is adequate to support operation of the normal fuel pool cooling system, (2) level that is adequate to provide substantial radiation shielding for a person standing on the spent fuel pool operating deck, and (3) level where fuel remains covered and actions to implement make-up water addition should no longer be deferred.

By letter dated February 28, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13071A470), Energy Northwest (the licensee) provided the Overall Integrated Plan (OIP) for Columbia Generating Station, describing how it will achieve compliance with Attachment 2 of Order EA-12-051 by the end of the refueling outage scheduled to start on May 1, 2015. By letter dated June 20, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13165A093), the NRC staff sent a request for additional information (RAI) to the licensee. The licensee provided supplemental information by letters dated July 19 and August 23, 2013 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML13274A241 and ML13248A448, respectively).

The NRC staff has reviewed these submittals with the understanding that the licensee will update its OIP as implementation of the Order progresses. With this in mind, the staff has included an interim staff evaluation with this letter to provide feedback on the OIP. The staff's findings in the interim staff evaluation are considered preliminary and will be revised as the OIP

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M. Reddemann

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is updated. As such, none of the staff's conclusions are to be considered final. A final NRC staff evaluation will be issued after the licensee has provided the information requested.

The interim staff evaluation also includes RAIs, response to which the NRC staff needs to complete its review. The licensee should provide the information requested in the 6-month status updates, as the information becomes available. However, the staff requests that all information be provided by November 30, 2014, to ensure that any issues are resolved prior to the date by which the licensee must complete full implementation of Order EA-12-051. The licensee should adjust its schedule for providing information to ensure that all this information is provided by the requested date.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-2296 or via e-mail at fred.lyon@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
Interim Staff Evaluation and
Request for Additional Information (OUO)

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/RA by JRankin for/

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
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