



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION IV
1600 E LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 1, 2015

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING
STATION (REPORT 05000397/2015005)**

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On August 11, 2015, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Columbia Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. 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 that overall, the Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the Columbia Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2017. 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 end-of-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.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. The audit has been completed for Columbia Generating Station, and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. After the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Final Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above by performing Temporary Instruction 2515/191, "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigating Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans."

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 me at (817) 200-1195 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ryan D. Alexander, Acting Chief
Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-397
License No.: NPF-21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station
Inspection/Activity Plan

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DATE	8/27/15	8/27/15	8/27/15				

Letter to Mark E. Reddemann from Ryan D. Alexander dated September 1, 2015

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING
STATION (REPORT 05000397/2015005)

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Distribution via Listserv for Columbia Generating Station

Columbia Generating Stati

Inspection / Activity Plan

07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION		5
2	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
2	08/31/2015	09/04/2015	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
			RS 5678 - RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM		4
2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			RS 13 PI - RADIATION SAFETY		2
2	02/29/2016	03/04/2016	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	02/29/2016	03/04/2016	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
2	02/29/2016	03/04/2016	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	02/29/2016	03/04/2016	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	
			EB1-07T - CGS HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE		1
2	03/21/2016	03/25/2016	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			EP-2 - BIENNIAL EXERCISE INSPECTION		4
2	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
2	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
			EP-3 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		2
2	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
2	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
2	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
			EB1-21EQ - CGS EQ/CDBI (PILOT)		3
2	05/09/2016	05/13/2016	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			EB1-21T - CGS COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION		6
2	06/06/2016	06/24/2016	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			EXAM - INITIAL EXAM		4
2	01/23/2017	01/27/2017	X02586	INITIAL EXAM CGS (02/2017)	
2	02/27/2017	03/09/2017	X02586	INITIAL EXAM CGS (02/2017)	
			RS 24 - RADIATION SAFETY		2
2	08/29/2016	09/02/2016	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	08/29/2016	09/02/2016	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			INSP - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION		3
2	11/14/2016	11/18/2016	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.

This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Columbia Generating Stati
Inspection / Activity Plan
07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017**

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
		EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
		EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION		1
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
2	01/30/2017 02/03/2017	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
		TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R		5
2	03/27/2017 03/31/2017	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
2	04/10/2017 04/14/2017	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
2	05/22/2017 05/26/2017	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
		RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY		3
2	05/22/2017 05/26/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	05/22/2017 05/26/2017	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	05/22/2017 05/26/2017	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	05/22/2017 05/26/2017	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	

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