



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

December 18, 2015

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

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - INTERIM STAFF RESPONSE TO
REEVALUATED SEISMIC HAZARD SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO TITLE
10 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS 50.54(f) INFORMATION
REQUEST (TAC NO. MF5274)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

The purpose of this letter is to inform Energy Northwest (EN, the licensee) of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) preliminary review results that the reevaluated seismic hazard information, submitted in March 2015 for Columbia Generating Station (Columbia), is suitable for use in the development of a seismic probabilistic risk assessment (SPRA) for Columbia Generating Station (Columbia).

On March 12, 2012, the NRC issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, Section 50.54(f) (hereafter referred to as the 50.54(f) letter). The purpose of the 50.54(f) letter was to gather information concerning, in part, the seismic hazard at operating reactor sites to enable the NRC staff to determine whether licenses should be modified, suspended, or revoked. The "Required Response" section of Enclosure 1 indicated that licensees should provide a seismic hazard evaluation and screening report within 3 years for Western United States (WUS) plants. The 50.54(f) letter, following submittal of the reevaluated hazard, indicated that the NRC would identify sites where an SPRA is warranted to evaluate the higher hazard.

By letter dated March 12, 2015¹, EN submitted for NRC review, its Seismic Hazard and Screening Report (SHSR), in response to the 50.54(f) letter for Columbia. By letters dated August 18, 2015² and September 16, 2015³, the NRC issued requests for additional information (RAIs) to the licensee. By letters dated September 24, 2015⁴ and October 14, 2015⁵, EN submitted its responses to the NRC staff's RAIs.

¹ The Columbia SHSR can be found under Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15078A243.

² The NRC staff RAI can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15215A043.

³ The NRC staff RAI can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15254A257.

⁴ Response to the NRC staff's RAI can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15267A780.

⁵ Response to the NRC staff's RAI can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15287A237.

By letters dated May 13, 2015,⁶ and October 27, 2015,⁷ the NRC staff determined that Columbia would need to submit a SPRA. The expected submittal date for Columbia is March 31, 2019.

The NRC staff has reviewed the areas that appear to have the most significant impact on the results provided in Columbia's SHSR, as well as information discussed during a public meeting held on June 4, 2015,⁸ and the licensee's responses to the NRC's RAIs. Based on its review of this information, the NRC staff has no further questions at this time. The staff judges that the reevaluated seismic hazard information, as documented in the SHSR, appear to be of sufficient quality and suitable for use in the development of a SPRA and in other assessments associated with Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1 "Seismic".

This letter serves as a preliminary feedback to the licensee of the NRC's review of the March 2015 SHSR and the hazard's suitability for use in the SPRA. Additional confirmatory sensitivity analyses are still in progress. No further questions are expected, however, if clarification is needed to complete the review, the NRC staff will notify the licensee. The NRC staff plans to issue a staff assessment documenting its review no later than September 2016. Consistent with a letter dated December 10, 2014⁹, the NRC does not plan to re-review the seismic hazard as part of reviewing the SPRA unless significant modifications are made to the seismic hazard inputs following this staff acceptance.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 301-415-1617 or via e-mail at Frankie.Vega@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Frankie G. Vega, Project Manager
Hazards Management Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

cc: Distribution via Listserv

⁶ The letter can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15113B344.

⁷ The letter can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15194A015.

⁸ The public meeting summary can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML15173A273.

⁹ The letter can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML14310A033.

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/RA/

Frankie G. Vega, Project Manager
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