



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

January 10, 2017

EA-16-212

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

**SUBJECT COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION – NRC SECURITY INSPECTION  
REPORT 05000397/2016404 AND APPARENT VIOLATION**

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

This letter refers to the inspection conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at your Columbia Generating Station. The purpose of the inspection was to ensure compliance of your Security Training and Security Equipment Performance, Testing, and Maintenance programs. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. The inspector discussed the preliminary inspection finding with members of your staff at the conclusion of the on-site portion of the inspection. A final exit briefing was conducted (telephonically) with Mr. W. Hettel, Vice President, Operations, and other members of your staff on December 5, 2016.

This inspection examined activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions in your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of an examination of selected procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel.

Based on the results of this inspection, apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy. The current Enforcement Policy is included on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/enforce-pol.html>. The circumstances surrounding these apparent violations, the significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective actions were discussed with members of your staff at the inspection exit meeting on December 5, 2016.

In addition, since you identified the issues, and based on our understanding of your corrective actions, a civil penalty may not be warranted in accordance with Section 2.3.4 of the Enforcement Policy. The final decision will be based on you confirming on the license docket that the corrective actions previously described to the NRC staff have been or are being taken.

**“Enclosure transmitted herewith contains SUNSI. When separated from enclosure, this transmittal document is decontrolled.”**

M. Reddemann

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Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to (1) respond to the apparent violations addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter or (2) request a pre-decisional enforcement conference. If a pre-decisional enforcement conference is held, the NRC will issue a press release to announce the time and date of the conference; however, the pre-decisional enforcement conference will be closed to public observation since Security-Related Information will be discussed. If you decide to participate in a pre-decisional enforcement conference, please contact Mark S. Haire, Chief, Plant Support Branch 1, at 817-200-1527 within 10 days of the date of this letter. A pre-decisional enforcement conference should be held within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you choose to provide a written response to the apparent violations, it should be clearly marked as "Response to Apparent Violations in NRC Inspection Report 05000397/2016404; EA16-212," and should include (1) the reason for the apparent violations or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent violations; (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved; (3) the corrective steps that will be taken; and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response may reference or include previously docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. In addition, please mark your entire response, "Security-Related Information – Withhold from Public Disclosure Under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390." In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response to this letter. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or Safeguards Information. If Safeguards Information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please provide the level of protection described in 10 CFR 73.21.

If you choose to request a pre-decisional enforcement conference, the conference will afford you the opportunity to provide your perspective on these matters and any other information that you believe the NRC should take into consideration before making an enforcement decision. The decision to hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that violations have occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference would be conducted to obtain information to assist the NRC in making an enforcement decision. The topics discussed during the conference may include information to determine whether violations occurred, information to determine the significance of the violations, information related to the identification of the violations, and information related to any corrective actions taken or planned.

In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

However, the material enclosed herewith contains Security-Related Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and its disclosure to unauthorized individuals could present a security vulnerability. Therefore, the material in the enclosure will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

M. Reddemann

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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mark Haire of my staff at 817-200-1527.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Anton Vogel, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Nonpublic Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 05000397/2016404  
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information

cc w/enclosure:  
Mr. Stephen Sullivan  
Security Operations Manager  
Energy Northwest  
Columbia Generating Station  
PE30  
76 North Power Plant Loop  
Richland, WA 99352

cc w/o enclosure:  
Electronic Distribution

~~OFFICIAL USE ONLY – SECURITY-RELATED INFORMATION~~

M. Reddemann

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COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION – NRC SECURITY INSPECTION  
 REPORT 05000397/2016404 AND APPARENT VIOLATION, DATED JANUARY 10, 2016

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**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML17010A215**

<b>Entire Report</b>		ADAMS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	Keyword: NRC-002	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review: CAJ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitive	MD 3 Non-Public A.3	
<b>Cover Letter Only</b>		ADAMS:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	Keyword: NRC-002	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review: CAJ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive	SUNSI Review Complete	
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DATE	12/22/16	12/22/16	12/22/16	12/27/16	12/29/16	01/04/17
OFFICE	CPSB1	D/DRS				
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SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/				
DATE	01/04/17	1/10/17				

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