

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL
VERIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED**

June 27, 2017
EN 17-019

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Energy Northwest
Columbia Generating Station
Docket No. 50-397

EA-17-028

Subject: ISSUANCE OF FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation (NOV) will be issued on or about July 3, 2017, to Energy Northwest, for a violation associated with a White Significance Determination Process finding identified during an inspection at Columbia Generating Station. The White finding, an issue of low to moderate safety significance, involved Energy Northwest's failure to ship Type B quantity of radioactive material in a container that was approved or tested for that purpose. The significance of this event was based on the increased risk to the public and accident hazard posed when a Type B quantity of radioactive material was shipped in a container that was not approved or tested for that purpose.

The violation involves the failure to transport low specific activity material in accordance with the condition that the external dose rate may not exceed an external radiation level of 10 mSv/hour (1 rem/hour) at 3 meters (10 feet) from the unshielded material. Specifically, the licensee transported a package as low specific activity material with an external radiation level of 2.1 rem/hour at a distance of 3 meters from the unshielded material.

In accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, this NOV is considered an escalated enforcement action because it is associated with a White finding.

On April 10, 2017, the NRC issued a preliminary determination letter for this issue, provided Energy Northwest the results of the inspection, and offered the opportunity to attend a regulatory conference or respond in writing. A regulatory conference was held on May 2, 2017, to discuss the licensee's views on this issue. Following the conference, Energy Northwest submitted a request on May 9, 2017, to have the preliminary White finding and the apparent violation, and the three Green non-cited violations combined into a problem. After reviewing the licensee's submittal, the staff determined that although the violations were closely related, combining the violations into a problem would not appropriately characterize the significance of the event.

The licensee has not yet been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Final Significance Determination	July 3, 2017
Telephone Notification of Licensee	July 3, 2017

The State of Washington will be notified.

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