



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

April 23, 2018

EA-16-212

Mr. Brad Sawatzke,  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
MD 1023  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, NRC SECURITY INSPECTION  
REPORT 05000397/2018440

Dear Mr. Sawatzke:

On December 1, 2017, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the on-site portion of an inspection using Inspection Procedure 92702, "Follow-up on Traditional Enforcement Actions Including Violations, Deviations, Confirmatory Action Letters, Confirmatory Orders, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Confirmatory Orders." On December 19, 2017, and March 29, 2018, the NRC discussed the results of this inspection with you and other members of your staff. The results of this inspection are documented in the enclosed report.

The NRC performed this inspection to review your station's actions in response to an Escalated Security-Related Enforcement Action (EA-16-212) documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000397/2016404, dated January 10, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17010A215), and finalized in a letter to you from Kriss Kennedy, Regional Administrator, dated March 16, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17075A355).

On November 9, 2017, you informed the NRC that your station was ready for this inspection. The NRC conducted the on-site portion of the inspection from November 27 through December 1, 2017. The NRC originally conducted this inspection in parallel with an inspection using Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection Response to Action Matrix Column 2 Inputs," initiated to review your staff's response to a White Finding in the Public Radiation Safety Cornerstone. The results of this Inspection Procedure 95001 supplemental inspection were discussed in NRC Inspection Report 05000397/2017011, dated January 30, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18032A754).

During the in-office review of the inspection results, the NRC identified a concern that the questioning process used in your root cause analysis for the escalated security issue may have concluded prior to the identification of causes beyond your control. Because of this concern, the NRC elected to separate the Inspection Procedure 92702 inspection results from the

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B. Sawatzke

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Inspection Procedure 95001 inspection results to allow additional time to review your root cause evaluation. During this additional review period, your staff provided additional information that revealed that a sufficiently thorough causal analysis was performed, but was not well documented in the original root cause evaluation reviewed by the NRC. Despite this documentation issue, which has been addressed through a subsequent revision of the root cause evaluation, your staff provided a sound technical basis for why your corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence of the performance issues that resulted in the escalated security issues including their underlying causes. Accordingly, the NRC identified no findings of greater than minor significance and concluded that the objectives of Inspection Procedure 92702 were met.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made 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).

However, the enclosed report contains Security-Related Information, so the enclosed report will not be made publically available in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1). If you choose to provide a response that contains Security-Related Information, please mark your entire response "Security-Related Information–Withhold from Public Disclosure Under 10 CFR 2.390" in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1). The NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jeremy R. Groom, Chief  
Plant Support Branch 1  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report 05000397/2018440  
w/ Attachment: Supplemental Information

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

cc w/o encl: Electronic Distribution

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COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, NRC SECURITY INSPECTION REPORT  
05000397/2018440 – APRIL 23, 2018

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**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML18113A592**

**Entire Report:** ADAMS:  Non-Publicly Available  Non-Sensitive Keyword:  
 SUNSI Review By: JRG  Yes  No  Publicly Available  Sensitive MD 3.4 A.3

**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML18113A642**

**Cover Letter Only:** ADAMS:  Non-Publicly Available  Non-Sensitive Keyword:  
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