NRC Schedules a Regulatory Conference with Energy Northwest

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a regulatory conference with officials from Energy Northwest on March 1, beginning at 9 a.m., Central time, to discuss the safety significance of a finding identified by the NRC during an inspection at the Columbia Generating Station. The plant is located 12 miles northwest of Richland, Washington.

Due to COVID-19 conditions, public participation will be via teleconference only. Meeting attendees will be able to listen to the meeting and ask questions following the business portion of the meeting by calling 800-857-5003, passcode 5204033#.

The purpose of this regulatory conference is for NRC and Energy Northwest officials to discuss a preliminary finding of low-to-moderate safety significance before the agency makes a final determination.

The preliminary finding and three apparent associated violations occurred on May 28 and involved the company’s failure to use appropriate radiological controls when conducting work on highly contaminated piping within the plant. As a result, two workers received unplanned exposures below regulatory limits. The event is described in a Jan. 13 inspection report.

A decision on the final safety significance of the apparent violation or any NRC actions will not be made at the meeting.