



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

April 14, 2022

EA-21-170

Mr. Dave Brown, Site Vice President  
Energy Northwest  
MD 1023  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352

**SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE – COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, NRC INSPECTION  
REPORT 05000397/2021090**

Dear Mr. Brown:

On January 13, 2022, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Inspection Report 05000397/2021090 documenting our review of the details of the May 28, 2021, airborne radioactivity event that resulted in multiple confirmed uptakes of radioactive materials to workers, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21347A988. The inspection report documented a preliminary White finding and three associated apparent violations involving your staff's failure to: (1) use, to the extent practicable, process or other engineering controls to control the concentration of radioactive material in air; (2) control, by means of a Radiation Work Permit, the activities in a high radiation area with dose rates greater than 1.0 rem/hour at 30 centimeters from the radiation source; and (3) make surveys of areas that were reasonable under the circumstances to evaluate the magnitude and extent of radiation levels and concentrations or quantities of residual radioactivity.

In our January 13, 2022, letter we provided you the opportunity to provide your perspectives on our preliminary conclusions documented in the inspection report by either (1) attending a regulatory conference or (2) submitting your position in writing. At your request, a regulatory conference was held on March 1, 2022, at the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. A summary of that meeting is available at ADAMS Accession No. ML22067A183.

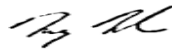
At the regulatory conference, we committed to providing a final decision on the apparent violations within 45 days; however, we have received new information that requires additional review. A complete understanding of this new information is necessary to support the NRC's decision-making on the underlying significance of the apparent violations and our regulatory actions. Accordingly, the NRC's final decision of enforcement action EA-21-170 is on hold, pending review of this new information. The final resolution of this matter will be conveyed in separate correspondence but be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations may change as a result of further NRC review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public

Document Room and from ADAMS, accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Greg Warnick of my staff at 817-200-1249.

Sincerely,



Signed by Muessle, Mary  
on 04/14/22

Mary C. Muessle, Director  
Division of Radiological Safety and Security

Docket No. 05000397  
License No. NPF-21

SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION – NRC INSPECTION  
REPORT 05000397/2021090 – DATED APRIL 14, 2022

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML22102A327**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: JRG	ADAMS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	Keyword NRC-002
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DATE	4/12/22	04/13/22	04/13/22	04/14/22

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