



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

May 03, 2022

Mr. Robert Schuetz, Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
MD 1023  
76 North Power Plant Loop  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL  
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION 05000397/2023301

Dear Mr. Schuetz:

In a telephone conversation on April 20, 2022, between Mr. Craig Prost, Manager, Operations Training, and Mr. John Kirkland, Chief Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at Columbia Generating Station during the week of February 20, 2023.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 12 to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines by September 19, 2022. The written examination outline was provided to your staff on April 20, 2022. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in NUREG-1021, Examination Standard (ES)-2.1, "Preparing for Operator Licensing Initial Examinations," will be due by December 5, 2022. Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready to use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or rescheduled. In addition, your support for on-site validation of the examinations is required during the week of January 23, 2023.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, your staff will need to provide adequate space and accommodations and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above.

In accordance with ES 3.5, "Administering Operating Tests," your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

ES-1.2, "Guidelines for Taking NRC Examinations," contains a number of NRC guidelines for the written examinations and operating tests as they are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 3150 0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. Kirkland to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB control number 3150 0090) and medical certifications (OMB control number 3150 0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the NRC does not receive the preliminary applications at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final, signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for waiver or excusal requests call for their receipt at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the facility licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398 or as directed when Mr. Kirkland is contacted to determine the method for submission. The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Prost has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions about the the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact me at 817-200-1159.

Sincerely,



Signed by Gepford, Heather  
on 05/03/22

Heather J. Gepford, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-397  
License: NPF-21

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION 05000397/2023301 – DATED MAY 03, 2022

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