

From: Mahesh Chawla
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Garcia, Richard M.
Cc: Adam Rau; James Medoff; John Tsao; Diana Woodyatt; Jennifer Dixon-Herrity; Angie Buford
Subject: Columbia Generating Station - LIC-109 Acceptance of Fourth 10 Year ISI RR 4ISI-11 - EPID L-2022-LLR-0071

Dear Mr. Garcia,

By letter dated October 5, 2022 (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22278B097), Energy Northwest submitted a relief request for Columbia Generating Station. Energy Northwest has requested an alternative in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1) on the basis that this alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. The alternative is relief from circumferential weld examinations required by the Code from the current fourth Inservice Inspection Interval through the period of extended operation. Columbia will continue to perform volumetric examinations of essentially 100 percent of the RPV axial shell welds and approximately two to three percent of circumferential welds will be volumetrically examined at their points of intersection with the RPV axial welds.

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant. Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(z)(1) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 200 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 12 months, which is November 7, 2023. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application, and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, and unanticipated addition of scope to the review. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Mahesh Chawla,
Project Manager
Licensing Branch
LPL4
Division of Operating Reactor
Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation
Phone: (301) 415-8371
Email: Mahesh.Chawla@nrc.gov

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Recipients:

"Adam Rau" <Adam.Rau@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"James Medoff" <James.Medoff@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"John Tsao" <John.Tsao@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Diana Woodyatt" <Diana.Woodyatt@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Jennifer Dixon-Herrity" <Jennifer.Dixon-Herrity@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Angie Buford" <Angela.Buford@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Garcia, Richard M." <rmgarcia@energy-northwest.com>
Tracking Status: None

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