

From: Mahesh Chawla
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Garcia, Richard M.
Cc: Jennifer Dixon-Herrity; Vic Cusumano; Joshua Wilson; Doug Broaddus
Subject: LIC-109 Acceptance Review of LAR for Columbia Generating Station - Application to Revise Technical Specifications to Adopt TSTF-541, "Provide Exception from Entering Mode 4 with No Operable RHR Shutdown Cooling" - EPID L-2023-LLA-0063

Dear Mr. Garcia,

By letter dated March 27, 2023 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML23086C103), Energy northwest (the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for Columbia Generating Station (Columbia). Energy Northwest requests adoption of Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF)-541 Revision 2, "Add Exceptions to Surveillance Requirements for Valves and Dampers Locked in the Actuated Position," using the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process. The proposed amendment modifies certain TS Surveillance Requirements (SR) by adding exceptions to consider the SR met when automatic valves or dampers are locked, sealed, or otherwise secured in the actuated position, in order to consider the SR met. Securing the automatic valve or damper in the actuated position may affect the operability of the system or any supported systems. The associated Limiting Condition for Operation is met if the subject structure, system or component remains operable (i.e., capable of performing its specified safety function).

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this LAR. 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. Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an application for an amendment to a license (including the TS) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

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 LAR 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 100 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 8 months, which is [December 31, 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 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 (RAI), unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities. 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 @

301-415-8371. Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Mahesh Chawla, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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