



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

March 2, 2006

J. V. Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000397/2006001)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On February 9, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Columbia Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2005. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, the Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and one White performance indicator in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone (Safety System Unavailability, High Pressure Injection System). This performance indicator was also White in the first, second, and third quarters of the assessment period. Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," was implemented to review the root cause, extent of cause and condition, as well as, the corrective actions associated with this White performance indicator. The results of this inspection, which was completed in October 2005, indicated that the root cause and significant contributing causes were adequately determined and appropriate corrective actions were established.

There was also a White performance indicator in the Initiating Events Cornerstone (Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours) in the second quarter of the assessment period. On January 10, 2006, we received notification from your staff of your readiness for NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection of the actions taken in response to the Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours performance indicator. This supplemental inspection (95001) was commenced on February 27, 2006.

In September, 2005, the NRC determined that the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(v)(B) and the guidance provided in NUREG-1022, "Event Reporting Guidelines 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73," Revision 2, had been misinterpreted by Energy Northwest. This resulted in the inappropriate reclassification of two licensee event reports associated with two loss of shutdown cooling events. These events occurred during a refueling outage in 2003. As a result of the reclassifications, the reported data for the Safety System Functional Failure Performance Indicator was revised. By revising the performance indicator data for these two events, the Safety System Functional Failure Performance Indicator data was reported as Green for the second quarter of 2004 when it should have been reported as White. While this performance indicator is currently Green, we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection (95001) beginning on March 13, 2006, to review the root cause, the extent of cause and condition, and the corrective actions for this issue.

In our midcycle assessment letter dated August 30, 2005, we advised you of the continuation of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of human performance, which principally involved personnel errors that had consequential impacts on the plant. The annual assessment of this substantive crosscutting issue included a review of inspection results over the 12-month period of January 1 to December 31, 2005. Our assessments during the latter half of the assessment period indicate that the actions taken by Energy Northwest were effective in addressing the causes of this substantive crosscutting issue. This assessment was made on the basis of improving human performance trends and fewer NRC inspection findings, as well as program improvements, such as establishing an error review process, establishing more critical reset criteria for operations crew event free clocks, and conducting specialized human performance training. These assessment were documented in NRC Inspection Reports 05000397/2005003 and 05000397/2005005. As a result, we consider the substantive crosscutting issue closed. We will continue to monitor your progress in this area as part of the baseline inspection program.

During this assessment, the NRC identified a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution. There were four Green findings in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone that involved degraded equipment conditions in which the extent of condition was not fully addressed, indicating inadequate problem analysis. Examples include the seismic qualification impacts on 4160 volt and 480 volt switchgear, electrical breaker settings, and emergency core cooling system pump motor oil drain plugs. Although there were not a large number of these findings, all of these examples involved NRC prompting before appropriate action was initiated to evaluate the extent of condition. These inadequate problem analysis and extent of condition symptoms were also noted during our February 3, 2006, meeting with Energy Northwest on the service water pump degradation. The NRC will monitor and assess the effectiveness of your actions within this area through the implementation of the baseline inspection program, which includes our ongoing review of the degraded service water pumps identified in 2005, and the two supplemental inspections previously discussed.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2007. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of

inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Claude E. Johnson at (817) 860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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S:DRP\DRPDIR\EOC 05\Assessment Letters\CGS.wpd

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Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

03/01/2006 - 09/30/2007

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	95001 - 95001 - UNPLANNED SCRAMS PI		1			
2	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		02/27/2006	03/03/2006	Supplemental Program
	EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION		4			
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		03/13/2006	03/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		03/27/2006	03/31/2006	Baseline Inspections
	95001 - 95001 - SAFETY SYSTEM FUNCTION FAIL. PI		1			
2	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		03/13/2006	03/22/2006	Supplemental Program
	RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY		1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/24/2006	04/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/24/2006	04/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/24/2006	04/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY		1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/21/2006	08/25/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/21/2006	08/25/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/21/2006	08/25/2006	Baseline Inspections
	BRQ SIM - BIENNIAL RQ SIM ONLY		1			
2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
	OB-EP EX - EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		4			
2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/11/2006	09/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-12B - MAINTENANCE RULE BIENNIAL		3			
2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		10/16/2006	10/20/2006	Baseline Inspections
	OB-RQ - COLUMBIA REQUALIFICATION INSP		4			
2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		10/30/2006	11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
	OB-INIT - COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM		4			
2	X02296	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/06)		10/23/2006	10/27/2006	Not Applicable
2	X02296	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/06)		11/27/2006	12/08/2006	Not Applicable
	EB1-2/17 - PERMANENT MODS/50.59		3			
2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		11/13/2006	11/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		11/13/2006	11/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-52B - PIR INSPECTION		5			
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		02/26/2007	03/02/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		03/12/2007	03/16/2007	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

03/01/2006 - 09/30/2007

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	RP-ORS	- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY	1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/30/2007	05/04/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/30/2007	05/04/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/30/2007	05/04/2007	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-08G	- ISI	1			
2	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-21	- CDB	7			
2	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		07/09/2007	07/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		07/23/2007	08/03/2007	Baseline Inspections
	RP TEAM	- RADIATION SAFETY TEAM	5			
2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Pr		07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.

This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.