



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

August 31, 2006

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

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -  
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On August 8, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Columbia Generating Station for the first half of the calendar year 2006 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. 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.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Columbia Generating Station was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional oversight (Green). While plant performance was within the Licensee Response column for the most recent quarter, plant performance was within the Regulatory Response column during the first quarter of calendar year 2006 based on a White PI in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone (Safety System Unavailability High Pressure Injection). A supplemental inspection was performed and documented in NRC Supplemental Inspection Report 05000397/2005010. The results of this inspection indicated that Energy Northwest adequately addressed this issue.

Previously, the NRC identified a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution in our annual assessment letter dated March 2, 2006. 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. Although there were not a large number of these findings, all involved NRC prompting before appropriate action was initiated to evaluate the extent of the condition. During the first quarter of calendar year 2006, the NRC identified a corrective action issue associated with the failure to thoroughly evaluate a condition adverse to quality affecting safety-related 4160 Vac circuit breakers. Corrective actions for this issue were also prompted by the NRC.

Also, inadequate evaluation of other safety-related circuit breaker problems has been a common theme identified in past NRC assessments of Columbia Generating Station's safety performance. Since the first quarter of 2006, there have been some indications of improved performance based on the actions taken by Energy Northwest.

On June 12, 2006, the NRC and Energy Northwest held a public meeting to discuss the actions Energy Northwest had taken in response to this substantive crosscutting issue. These actions included performing a comprehensive root cause assessment of the corrective action program and identifying the need for additional training in the area of condition evaluations. Process changes were also made to strengthen procedural guidance regarding extent of condition.


While you have taken steps to strengthen your performance in the problem identification and resolution area, your corrective actions have not been fully implemented, and Energy Northwest has not yet demonstrated that these actions will result in an improved level of performance over the long term. Consequently, consistent with the substantive crosscutting issue closure discussion in our March 2, 2006, letter, the substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution will remain open pending our confirmation that Energy Northwest's completed corrective actions have resulted in a sustained level of improved performance.

With the exception of inspections related to physical protection, the enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, including Temporary Instructions, scheduled through March 31, 2008. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the early 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 annual performance review meeting.

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

Sincerely,



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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SUNSI Review Completed:   CEJ   ADAMS:  Yes  No Initials:   CEJ    
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8/24/06	8/24/06	8/25/06	8/25/06	

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**Columbia Generating Station  
Inspection / Activity Plan  
07/01/2006 - 03/31/2008**

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Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		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
	<b>OB-EP EX - EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE</b>		3			
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
	<b>TI-169 - MSPI VERIFICATION</b>		1			
2	IP 2515/169	Mitigating Systems Performance Index Verification		10/01/2006	12/31/2006	Safety Issues
	<b>OB-INIT - COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM</b>		4			
2	X02296	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/06)		10/30/2006	11/03/2006	Not Applicable
2	X02296	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/06)		11/27/2006	12/08/2006	Not Applicable
	<b>EB1-2/17 - PERMANENT MODS/50.59</b>		3			
2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		11/13/2006	11/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		11/13/2006	11/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OB-RQ - BIENNIAL REQUALIFICATION INSP</b>		5			
2	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		12/11/2006	12/15/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/19/2007	03/23/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/19/2007	03/23/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/19/2007	03/23/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-52B - PIR INSPECTION</b>		5			
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		03/26/2007	03/30/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/09/2007	04/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1-08G - ISI</b>		1			
2	IP 711108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1-21 - CDB</b>		6			
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

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  
07/01/2006 - 03/31/2008**

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Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>RP TEAM - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM</b>		<b>5</b>			
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 P		07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/13/2007	08/17/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/13/2007	08/17/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/13/2007	08/17/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EP2 - EP PROGRAM</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-07B - HEAT SINK INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		10/29/2007	11/02/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-12T - MAINTENANCE RULE TRIENNIAL</b>		<b>3</b>			
2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		11/05/2007	11/09/2007	Baseline Inspections

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