



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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March 2, 2007

J. V. Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
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SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000397/2007001)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On February 8, 2007, 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, 2006. 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 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 performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

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 performance indicator 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 [ADAMS Reference ML053340056]. The results of this inspection indicated that Energy Northwest adequately addressed this issue.

In our midcycle assessment letter dated August 31, 2006 [ADAMS Reference ML062430646], we advised you of the continuation of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution involving degraded equipment conditions in which the extent of condition was not fully addressed, indicating inadequate problem analysis. Also you were

advised that, while you had taken steps to strengthen your performance in this area, your corrective actions had not fully been implemented, and Energy Northwest had not yet demonstrated that these actions would result in an improved level of performance over the long term. Consequently, this substantive crosscutting issue remained open.

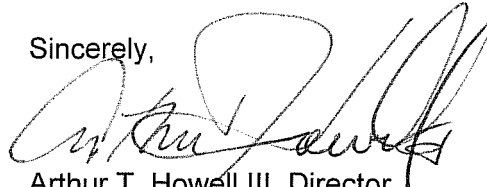
The annual assessment of this substantive crosscutting issue included a review of inspection results over the 12-month period of January 1 to December 31, 2006. Our assessments during the latter half of this period indicated that the actions taken by Energy Northwest were being effective in addressing the causes of the substantive crosscutting issue. The assessment was made on the basis of improving problem identification and resolution performance trends and fewer NRC inspection findings in this area. In addition, we noted that your staff has implemented program improvements and focused training, which have contributed to the improved performance in evaluating the extent of condition of degraded equipment conditions. As a result, we consider the substantive crosscutting issue closed.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2008. 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 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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Columbia Generating Station
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 01/01/2007 - 09/30/2008

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	EB2-52B - PIR INSPECTION		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
	RP-ORS3 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ALARA		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
	EB1-08G - ISI		2			
2	IP 711108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS4 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ACCESS		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
	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 F		07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
	EP2 - EP PROGRAM		1			
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
	RP-ORS5 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ALARA		1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-07B - HEAT SINK INSPECTION		1			
2	IP 711107B	Heat Sink Performance		10/29/2007	11/02/2007	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-12T - MAINTENANCE RULE TRIENNIAL		2			
2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		11/05/2007	11/09/2007	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
 01/01/2007 - 09/30/2008

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	RP-ORS1 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS					
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	1	03/17/2008	03/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/17/2008	03/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		03/17/2008	03/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		03/17/2008	03/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EXAM - INITIAL EXAMINATION					
2	X02376	COLUMBIA GENERATING-INITIAL EXAM (07/14/08)	5	06/09/2008	06/13/2008	Not Applicable
2	X02376	COLUMBIA GENERATING-INITIAL EXAM (07/14/08)		07/14/2008	07/25/2008	Not Applicable
	RP-ORS2 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA					
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	1	08/25/2008	08/29/2008	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/25/2008	08/29/2008	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		08/25/2008	08/29/2008	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		08/25/2008	08/29/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EPI - EP EXERCISE					
2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	3	09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections

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

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