



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

March 5, 2012

Mr. M.E. Reddemann
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968, Mail Drop 1023
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 05000397/2012001)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On February 14, 2012, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Columbia Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Columbia Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The NRC identifies substantive cross-cutting issues (SCCIs) to communicate a concern with the licensee's performance in a cross-cutting area and to encourage the licensee to take appropriate actions before more significant performance issues emerge. The NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the work practices component of the human performance cross-cutting area. Specifically, four green findings were identified in the work practices component of the human performance cross-cutting area associated with failure to implement human error prevention techniques [H.4(a)]. The NRC noted that previous and current improvement initiatives to address human performance issues have not been fully successful. Therefore, the NRC determined that an SCCI exists in this cross-cutting area. We plan to inspect your efforts to address this issue and request you provide us a letter informing us of your readiness for inspection of your corrective actions in this theme. The SCCI will remain open until we determine through our inspection that your corrective actions have been effective and the station has demonstrated sustained and measurable improvement. We will perform baseline inspections in this theme after you notify us in writing of your readiness for inspection.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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).

Please contact me at 817-200-1148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Wayne C. Walker
Chief, Reactor Projects Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000397
License No. NPF-21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/Enclosure: Distribution via ListServe

cc w/Enclosure

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File located: R:_Reactors\CGS EOC Letter 2011.doc

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SUNSI Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ADAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reviewer Initials	WW
Publicly Avail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	WW
A:DRP/A signature	D:DRS	D:DRP			
WCWalker	AVegel	KKennedy			
/RA/	T.Blount for	/RA/			
2/28/2012	2/28/2012	2/29/2012			

Columbia Generating Station
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/01/2012 - 06/30/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
TI-177 - 2515/TI-177: ECSS GAS ACCUMULATION					
2	05/07/2012	05/10/2012	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	2
RS13 - RADIATION SAFETY					
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	2
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION					
2	06/11/2012	06/15/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
2	06/25/2012	06/29/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
RS24 - RADIATION SAFETY					
2	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 2515/185	Follow-up on the Industry's Ground Water Protection Initiative	
2	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP EXERCISE					
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	3
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
2	08/27/2012	08/31/2012	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
BRQ - BRQ INSPECTION					
2	11/26/2012	11/30/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
EB1-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION					
2	03/25/2013	03/29/2013	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	1