



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

September 3, 2013

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING  
STATION (REPORT 05000397/2013006)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On August 13, 2013, the NRC completed its mid-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 July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

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.

During the first quarter of calendar year 2013, Columbia Generating Station was in the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's ROP Action Matrix because the NRC made a final significance determination of two White findings in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone. The findings involved a failure to maintain a standard emergency action level scheme and a failure to maintain adequate methods for assessing the consequences of a radiological emergency condition. On March 22, 2013, the NRC completed a Supplemental Inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, "Supplemental Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," as documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000397/2013009, dated May 14, 2013, which closed the two White findings. In addition, the cover letter for NRC Inspection Report 05000397/2013009 included a follow up assessment that moved Columbia Generating Station to the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix.

The NRC also identified a cross-cutting theme in the human performance area associated with the resources component. The theme consists of five inspection findings related to completeness of documentation and procedures [H.2(c)]. The NRC determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue associated with the H.2(c) cross-cutting aspect does not exist because the NRC does not have a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in

addressing the cross-cutting theme. Specifically, your cause determination and corrective actions were in progress, and were addressing the cross-cutting theme. The NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort, progress, and effectiveness in addressing the theme until the theme criteria are no longer met.

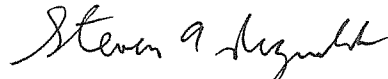
From July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, the NRC issued three Severity Level IV traditional enforcement violations associated with impeding the regulatory process. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct Inspection Procedure 92723, "Follow Up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period."

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2014. 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 end-of-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. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

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 Mr. Wayne C. Walker at (817) 200-1148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Reynolds  
Acting Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 05000397  
License No.: NPF-21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station Inspection / Activity Plan

Enclosure - Inspection Plan  
**Columbia Generating Station**  
 Inspection / Activity Plan  
 09/01/2013 - 12/31/2014

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Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
2	08/01/2013 12/31/2013	92723 - 92723	<b>THREE SEVERITY LEVEL IV IN 12 MO.</b> Follow Up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the S	1
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 92723		
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	<b>PSB2-RP - RADIATION SAFETY</b>		4
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
2	11/04/2013 11/08/2013	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
2	03/01/2014 03/31/2014	<b>ISFSI - ROUTINE INSPECTION (1 WEEK IN THE MONTH)</b>		1
2	05/12/2014 05/16/2014	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
2	06/16/2014 06/20/2014	<b>TI-182 - BURIED PIPING</b>		1
2	06/16/2014 06/20/2014	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
2	06/16/2014 06/20/2014	<b>RS24 - RADIATION SAFETY</b>		2
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	<b>RS13 - RADIATION SAFETY</b>		3
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
2	08/11/2014 08/15/2014	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
2	08/25/2014 08/29/2014	<b>EP-1 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>		1
2	08/25/2014 08/29/2014	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
2	08/25/2014 08/29/2014	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
2	08/25/2014 08/29/2014	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
2	08/25/2014 08/29/2014	<b>EP-3 - BIENNIAL EXERCISE INSPECTION HAB</b>		5
2	08/25/2014 08/29/2014	IP 7111407	Exercise Evaluation - Hostile Action (HA) Event	
2	09/29/2014 10/10/2014	<b>EB1-17T - TRIENNIAL PERM PLANT MODS &amp; 50.59</b>		3
2	12/01/2014 12/05/2014	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
2	12/01/2014 12/05/2014	<b>INSP - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		2
2	12/01/2014 12/05/2014	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

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