



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION IV  
1600 E LAMAR BLVD  
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 1, 2015

Mr. Mark 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 05000397/2015005)**

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On August 11, 2015, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Columbia Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. 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 that overall, the Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the 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 enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2017. 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 response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. The audit has been completed for Columbia Generating Station, and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. After the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Final Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above by performing Temporary Instruction 2515/191, "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigating Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans."

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) 200-1195 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ryan D. Alexander, Acting Chief  
Branch A  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-397  
License No.: NPF-21

Enclosure: Columbia Generating Station  
Inspection/Activity Plan

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| DATE   | 8/27/15     | 8/27/15   | 8/27/15     |  |  |   |  |

Letter to Mark E. Reddemann from Ryan D. Alexander dated September 1, 2015

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING  
STATION (REPORT 05000397/2015005)

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Distribution via Listserv for Columbia Generating Station

## Columbia Generating Stati

## Inspection / Activity Plan

07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

| Unit Number | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Activity                                    | Title   | No. of Staff on Site |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|---|----------------------|
|             |                     |                   | <b>EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION</b>  |   | 5                    |
| 2           | 08/17/2015          | 08/21/2015        | IP 7111105T  | Fire Protection [Triennial]   |                      |
| 2           | 08/31/2015          | 09/04/2015        | IP 7111105T  | Fire Protection [Triennial]   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>RS 5678 - RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM</b>               |   | 4                    |
| 2           | 09/21/2015          | 09/25/2015        | IP 71124.05  | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation  |                      |
| 2           | 09/21/2015          | 09/25/2015        | IP 71124.06  | Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment   |                      |
| 2           | 09/21/2015          | 09/25/2015        | IP 71124.07  | Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program   |                      |
| 2           | 09/21/2015          | 09/25/2015        | IP 71124.08  | Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>RS 13 PI - RADIATION SAFETY</b>                     |   | 2                    |
| 2           | 02/29/2016          | 03/04/2016        | IP 71124.01  | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls  |                      |
| 2           | 02/29/2016          | 03/04/2016        | IP 71124.03  | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation  |                      |
| 2           | 02/29/2016          | 03/04/2016        | IP 71151-OR01  | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness   |                      |
| 2           | 02/29/2016          | 03/04/2016        | IP 71151-PR01  | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>EB1-07T - CGS HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE</b>             |   | 1                    |
| 2           | 03/21/2016          | 03/25/2016        | IP 7111107T  | Heat Sink Performance   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>EP-2 - BIENNIAL EXERCISE INSPECTION</b>             |   | 4                    |
| 2           | 03/28/2016          | 04/01/2016        | IP 7111401   | Exercise Evaluation   |                      |
| 2           | 03/28/2016          | 04/01/2016        | IP 7111404   | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>EP-3 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>                |   | 2                    |
| 2           | 03/28/2016          | 04/01/2016        | IP 71151-EP01  | Drill/Exercise Performance  |                      |
| 2           | 03/28/2016          | 04/01/2016        | IP 71151-EP02  | ERO Readiness   |                      |
| 2           | 03/28/2016          | 04/01/2016        | IP 71151-EP03  | Alert & Notification System Reliability   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>EB1-21EQ - CGS EQ/CDBI (PILOT)</b>                  |   | 3                    |
| 2           | 05/09/2016          | 05/13/2016        | IP 7111121   | Component Design Bases Inspection   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>EB1-21T - CGS COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION</b> |   | 6                    |
| 2           | 06/06/2016          | 06/24/2016        | IP 7111121   | Component Design Bases Inspection   |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>                             |   | 4                    |
| 2           | 01/23/2017          | 01/27/2017        | X02586   | INITIAL EXAM CGS (02/2017)  |                      |
| 2           | 02/27/2017          | 03/09/2017        | X02586   | INITIAL EXAM CGS (02/2017)  |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>RS 24 - RADIATION SAFETY</b>                        |   | 2                    |
| 2           | 08/29/2016          | 09/02/2016        | IP 71124.02  | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls  |                      |
| 2           | 08/29/2016          | 09/02/2016        | IP 71124.04  | Occupational Dose Assessment  |                      |
|             |                     |                   | <b>INSP - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION</b>               |   | 3                    |
| 2           | 11/14/2016          | 11/18/2016        | 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.

**Columbia Generating Stati  
Inspection / Activity Plan  
07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017**

| Unit Number | Planned Dates<br>Start End | Inspection Activity                                 | Title  | No. of Staff<br>on Site |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
|             |                            | <b>EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION</b>        |  | <b>1</b>                |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 7111402  | Alert and Notification System Testing                                |                         |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 7111403  | Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System |                         |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 7111404  | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes                    |                         |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 7111405  | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies     |                         |
|             |                            | <b>EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION</b> |  | <b>1</b>                |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 71151-EP01                                       | Drill/Exercise Performance   |                         |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 71151-EP02                                       | ERO Readiness  |                         |
| 2           | 01/30/2017 02/03/2017      | IP 71151-EP03                                       | Alert & Notification System Reliability                              |                         |
|             |                            | <b>TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&amp;R</b>                  |  | <b>5</b>                |
| 2           | 03/27/2017 03/31/2017      | IP 71152B   | Problem Identification and Resolution                                |                         |
| 2           | 04/10/2017 04/14/2017      | IP 71152B   | Problem Identification and Resolution                                |                         |
|             |                            | <b>71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>              |  | <b>1</b>                |
| 2           | 05/22/2017 05/26/2017      | IP 7111108G   | Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR                                |                         |
|             |                            | <b>RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY</b>                  |  | <b>3</b>                |
| 2           | 05/22/2017 05/26/2017      | IP 71124.01   | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls                 |                         |
| 2           | 05/22/2017 05/26/2017      | IP 71124.02   | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls                             |                         |
| 2           | 05/22/2017 05/26/2017      | IP 71151-OR01                                       | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness                          |                         |
| 2           | 05/22/2017 05/26/2017      | IP 71151-PR01                                       | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences                          |                         |

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