



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region IV

Arlington, TX. 76011-4511
www.nrc.gov



No: IV-26-011

June 18, 2026

Contact: [Tressa Smith](#), 817-200-1128

NRC Schedules Public Outreach to Discuss Columbia Generating Station Performance

ARLINGTON, Texas — Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold an [informal public outreach](#) session June 27 in Richland, Washington, to give local residents a clear look at how Columbia Generating Station performed in 2025. The event offers an opportunity for the public to speak one-on-one with NRC inspectors who evaluate the plant throughout the year.

The NRC's annual assessment found that the Columbia plant operated safely in 2025. However, for part of the year, the plant was under increased agency oversight due to two inspection findings of low safety significance related to occupational radiation safety. The NRC conducted a supplemental inspection in February and determined that the issues were properly corrected. As a result, the plant returned to normal oversight by the end of 2025.

The single-unit plant is operated by Energy Northwest and is located in Richland. The informal public outreach will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Pacific time during the Cool Desert Nights community event at 1317 George Washington Way in Richland. NRC employees responsible for plant inspections, including the resident inspector based full-time at the site, will be available to answer questions at the event.

The agency evaluates [plant performance](#) using a color-coded system that tracks inspection findings and performance indicators. The annual assessment [letter](#) for the Columbia plant, including upcoming inspection plans, is available on the NRC website. Current [performance information](#) for all U.S. reactors is also available and updated quarterly.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.