



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

August 30, 2004

J. V. Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

**SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION**

Dear Parrish:

On August 4, 2004, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of Columbia Generating Station. The midcycle review for Columbia Generating Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance for the first half of the calendar year 2004 assessment cycle. The process included a review of performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. 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 so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

This performance review and inspection plan does not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

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 PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2006.

In our annual assessment letter dated March 3, 2004, we advised you of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution. Problem identification and resolution issues contributed to a number of Green findings in the mitigating systems, barrier integrity, and occupational radiation safety cornerstones. A common theme of many of these findings pertained to a lack of rigor with regard to aggressively identifying and correcting problems with plant design information. This had contributed to incorrect and inconsistent information being translated into the design of plant equipment. In addition, there were a

number of degraded equipment conditions identified by your staff in which the extent of condition was not always fully addressed, and involved inadequate problem analysis.

On January 8, 2004, a meeting was held at Energy Northwest's request to address areas involving engineering performance, problem identification and resolution, and the Quest for Excellence program. Since this meeting, we recognize that your staff has made progress in addressing the causes of the inadequacies associated with engineering rigor. Your actions in response to this substantive crosscutting issue has been reviewed through the baseline inspection program and during NRC management site visits. Despite these actions, the NRC has identified other issues with problem analysis and recognition of the extent of condition which demonstrate a continuing challenge in this area. The NRC will continue to focus baseline inspection activities on Energy Northwest's efforts to address overall engineering rigor with respect to identifying and correcting problems with plant design information and the overall effectiveness of the revised corrective action program, particularly in the areas of determination of extent of condition and root cause and problem analysis.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2006. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed because of their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 12 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

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 the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817/860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William B. Jones, Chief
Project Branch E
Division of Reactor Projects

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License: NPF-21

Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

Energy Northwest

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Energy Northwest

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| RIV:C:DRP/E | D:DRS | D:DRP | DRA | RA |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| WBJones | DDChamberlain | ATHowell | TPGwynn | BSMallett |
| /RA/ | VLOrdaz for | /RA/ | /RA/ | /RA/ |
| 8/19/04 | 8/25/04 | 8/28/04 | 8/27/04 | 8/27/04 |

| C:DRP/E signature | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| WBJones | | | | |
| /RA/ | | | | |
| 8/30/04 | | | | |

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Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

08/01/2004 - 03/31/2006

| Unit Number | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Type |
|-------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | OB-IN EX | - OB-INITIAL EXAMINATION | 7 | | | |
| 2 | X02266 | COLUMBIA (09/04) INITIAL EXAM | | 09/20/2004 | 09/24/2004 | Not Applicable |
| | ALARA1 | - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | | 08/30/2004 | 09/03/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| | OB-EP2 | - EP EXERCISE | 3 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111401 | Exercise Evaluation | | 08/30/2004 | 09/03/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111404 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | | 08/30/2004 | 09/03/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | | 08/30/2004 | 09/03/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| | PEB-12B | - MAINTENANCE EFFECTIVENESS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111112B | Maintenance Effectiveness | | 09/20/2004 | 09/24/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EB-17B | - PERMANENT PLANT MODS | 2 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111117B | Permanent Plant Modifications | | 11/15/2004 | 11/19/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| | REQUAL | - OB-REQUALIFICATION | 3 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111111B | Licensed Operator Requalification Program | | 11/29/2004 | 12/03/2004 | Baseline Inspections |
| | ALARA2 | - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | | 02/14/2005 | 02/18/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | PEB-52 | - CGS PIR INSPECTION | 3 | | | |
| 2 | IP 71152B | Identification and Resolution of Problems | | 04/04/2005 | 04/08/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 71152B | Identification and Resolution of Problems | | 04/11/2005 | 04/14/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EB08G | - ISI | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111108G | Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR | | 05/09/2005 | 05/13/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | ACRSA | - ACCESS CONTROL FOR RAD SIGNIFICANT AREAS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112101 | Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas | | 05/23/2005 | 05/27/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EB21/02 | - SSD&PCI/50.59 | 6 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111121 | Safety System Design and Performance Capability | | 07/18/2005 | 07/22/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111102 | Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments | | 08/01/2005 | 08/05/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111121 | Safety System Design and Performance Capability | | 08/01/2005 | 08/05/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | RP TEAM | - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM INSPECTION | 4 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112103 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment | | 07/25/2005 | 07/29/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7112201 | Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems | | 07/25/2005 | 07/29/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7112202 | Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation | | 07/25/2005 | 07/29/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7112203 | Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program | | 07/25/2005 | 07/29/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | PEB-07B | - HX PERFORMANCE | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111107B | Heat Sink Performance | | 08/15/2005 | 08/19/2005 | 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

08/01/2004 - 03/31/2006

| Unit Number | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Type |
|-------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | ALARA3 | - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | | 08/15/2005 | 08/19/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | OB-EP2 | - EMERG PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM INSPECTION | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111402 | Alert and Notification System Testing | | 10/31/2005 | 11/04/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111403 | Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing | | 10/31/2005 | 11/04/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111404 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | | 10/31/2005 | 11/04/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111405 | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies | | 10/31/2005 | 11/04/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | | 10/31/2005 | 11/04/2005 | Baseline Inspections |
| | PEB | - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION | 3 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111105T | Fire Protection | | 03/13/2006 | 03/17/2006 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7111105T | Fire Protection | | 03/27/2006 | 03/31/2006 | Baseline Inspections |