

**ENERGY
NORTHWEST**

P.O. Box 968 ■ Richland, Washington 99352-0968

May 12, 2003
GO2-03-082

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Subject: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397; UPDATED
REPORT OF SERVICE WATER SYSTEM PIPE WALL THINNING**

**Reference: Letter dated October 4, 2002, DK Atkinson (Energy Northwest) to NRC, "Report
of Pipe Wall Thinning Examination Results"**

Dear Sir or Madam:

In the enclosure to the referenced letter, pursuant to paragraph IWB-3134 of Section XI of the ASME Code, Energy Northwest submitted an evaluation of an Ultrasonic Testing (UT) examination of localized wall thinning in ASME Code Class III Service Water (SW) system piping. The evaluation applied the ASME Code Case N-480 approach for evaluating wall thinning in accordance with Enclosure 1, Section C.3.b of NRC Generic Letter 90-05 and demonstrated that the predicted pipe wall thickness (t_p) on the scheduled replacement date was greater than the allowable local wall thickness (t_{loc}) as determined by the ASME Code Case N-480 rules. The thinned pipe wall location is downstream of the spray pond isolation valve SW-V-12A and the thinning is attributed to damage from cavitations that occur as the valve is closed against system flow when the SW system is secured.

Due to the observed degradation, the thinned location has been examined at an augmented three-month interval. The data from the first augmented exam on October 10, 2002, showed the wall thickness to be 0.170 inches. Results from a January 7, 2003 exam indicated a wall thickness of 0.155 inches. The latest UT data from April 6, 2003, revealed a wall thickness of 0.140 inches. These augmented UT exams have verified the area of the thinned location has not changed.

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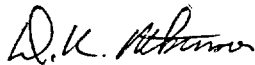
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Based on the latest April 6, 2003 UT data, the value of t_p is now re-estimated to be 0.130 inches. Although this is less than the t_p of 0.172 inches reported in the enclosure to the referenced letter, it is still greater than the allowable local wall thickness (t_{aloc}) as determined by the ASME Code Case N-480 rules. The thinned piping will be replaced during a refueling outage that begins on May 10, 2003.

Should you have any questions or desire additional information regarding this matter, please call Ms. CL Perino at (509) 377-2075.

Respectfully,



DK Atkinson
Vice President, Technical Services
Mail Drop PE08

cc: EW Merschoff - NRC - RIV
TC Poindexter - Winston & Strawn
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