



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

August 27, 2003

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968; MD 1023
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

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

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On August 6, 2003, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of your Columbia Generating Station. The midcycle review for Columbia Generating Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through June 30, 2003. 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.

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 baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2004.

In our annual assessment letter dated March 4, 2002, we advised you of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of human performance. In December 2002, the NRC staff conducted a focused problem identification and resolution inspection that reviewed corrective action to address this human performance crosscutting issue. The NRC staff reviewed performance data and statistics for the past 2 years, which showed marked improvement. However, a number of the human performance issues occurred during the previous refueling outage. We indicated in our March 4, 2003, annual assessment letter that we would assess the effectiveness of your corrective actions during the scheduled 2003 refueling outage. Therefore, we will continue to monitor your efforts to address this substantive crosscutting issue by reviewing the effectiveness of your corrective action as implemented during the refueling outage completed May 2003. The NRC staff will utilize the baseline inspection program, including a problem identification and resolution inspection. This later inspection was rescheduled from June 2003 to September 2003.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. 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 due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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
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Enclosure:
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

08/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	OB-PIR - CG PIR INSPECTION		6			
2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/29/2003	10/10/2003	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA2 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/28/2003	08/01/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - SSD&PCI		5			
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB-DS - CIP 71111.DS		6			
2	IP 71111.DS	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - SSD&PCI		5			
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/22/2003	09/26/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB-DS - CIP 71111.DS		6			
2	IP 71111.DS	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/22/2003	09/26/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - 50.59		1			
2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	RP-TM - RAD SAFETY TEAM		4			
2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PSBS1-GP - SECURITY BASELINE INSPECTION		2			
2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizat		12/07/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Strc		12/07/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/07/2003	12/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-EP1 - EP PROGRAM BASELINE INSPECTION		1			
2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		12/15/2003	12/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		12/15/2003	12/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		12/15/2003	12/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		12/15/2003	12/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/15/2003	12/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - MAINTENANCE EFFECTIVENESS		1			
2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		02/09/2004	02/13/2004	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/17/2004	05/21/2004	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

08/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	ACCESSPI - ACRSA/PIV		1			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		06/14/2004	06/18/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OB - OB-INITIAL EXAMINATION		4			
2	X02266	COLUMBIA (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		08/23/2004	08/27/2004	Not Applicable
2	X02266	COLUMBIA (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		09/13/2004	09/24/2004	Not Applicable
	2004032 - PERMANENT PLANT MODIFICATINS		2			
2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		08/02/2004	08/06/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-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