



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2011

Ms. Carey Miller
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801-9467

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Ms. Miller:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for license renewal of the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) (Supplement 47 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" [GEIS]). Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for CGS will expire on December 20, 2023. This letter is to inform you and members of your tribe that the draft SEIS for the license renewal of CGS is available for public comment.

As required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51.74(a)(6) (10 CFR 51.74(a)(6)), the NRC is distributing the draft SEIS to your tribe for comment as well as to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Wanapum Band. As stated in our letter to you dated March 19, 2010, the NRC is conducting Section 106 consultations in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8(c).

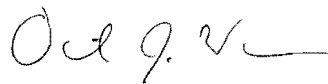
In the context of NEPA, the NRC's preliminary determination is that any impact from continued power plant operations and maintenance activities during the license renewal term on historical and archaeological resources located in the area of potential effect would be small. Under the provisions of the NHPA, the NRC also determined that historic properties would not be adversely affected by this undertaking (the renewal of the CGS operating license). The justification for this conclusion is explained in Section 4.9.6 which begins on page 4-25 in the enclosed draft SEIS.

As discussed in Section 9.4 of the draft SEIS, the NRC's preliminary recommendation is that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for CGS are not great enough to deny the option of license renewal for energy-planning decision-makers. This recommendation is based on (1) the analysis and findings in the GEIS; (2) the environmental report submitted by Energy Northwest; (3) consultation with Federal, State, and local agencies; (4) the NRC's environmental review; and (5) consideration of public comments received during the scoping process.

Public meetings will be held on September 27, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland, Washington. A meeting notice will be published shortly providing more details about those public meetings. Please note that the public comment period for the draft SEIS ends on November 16, 2011.

A separate Notice of Availability of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions regarding this matter or wish to comment on the draft SEIS, please contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. Daniel Doyle at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Wrona", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosures:

1. Federal Register Notice
2. "Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement..."

cc w/encls: Listserv



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2011

Ms. V. Kate Valdez
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Ms. Valdez:

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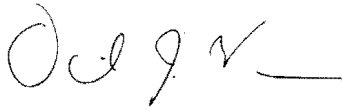
V. Valdez

- 2 -

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David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

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cc w/encls: Listserv



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2011

Mr. Rex Buck
Wanapum Band
Grant County PUD
P.O. Box 878
Ephrata, WA 98823

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Mr. Buck:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for license renewal of the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) (Supplement 47 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" [GEIS]). Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for CGS will expire on December 20, 2023. This letter is to inform you and members of your tribe that the draft SEIS for the license renewal of CGS is available for public comment.

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In the context of NEPA, the NRC's preliminary determination is that any impact from continued power plant operations and maintenance activities during the license renewal term on historical and archaeological resources located in the area of potential effect would be small. Under the provisions of the NHPA, the NRC also determined that historic properties would not be adversely affected by this undertaking (the renewal of the CGS operating license). The justification for this conclusion is explained in Section 4.9.6 which begins on page 4-25 in the enclosed draft SEIS.

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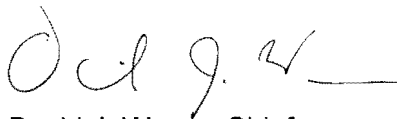
R. Buck

- 2 -

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David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2011

Mr. Patrick Baird
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540-0365

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Mr. Baird:

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P. Baird

- 2 -

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David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2011

Ms. Camille Pleasants
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155-0150

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Ms. Pleasants:

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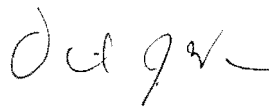
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David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosures:

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ENERGY NORTHWEST

COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NUMBER 50-397

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENT 47 TO THE GENERIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR PLANTS
AND PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE LICENSE RENEWAL OF
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

[NRC-2010-0029]

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a draft plant-specific supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (GEIS), NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating license NPF-21 for an additional 20 years of operation for Columbia Generating Station. Columbia Generating Station is located in Richland, Washington. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources.

Any interested party may submit comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS for consideration by the NRC staff. To be considered, comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS and the proposed action must be received by November 16, 2011. The NRC staff is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods. Please include Docket ID **NRC-2010-0029** in the subject line of your comments. Comments submitted in writing or in electronic form will be posted on the NRC website and on the Federal rulemaking

website <http://www.regulations.gov>. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including any information in your submission that you do not want to be publicly disclosed.

The NRC requests that any party soliciting or aggregating comments received from other persons for submission to the NRC inform those persons that the NRC will not edit their comments to remove any identifying or contact information, and, therefore, they should not include any information in their comments that they do not want publicly disclosed.

Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for documents filed under Docket ID **NRC-2010-0029**. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher at 301-492-3668 or by e-mail at Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov.

Mail comments to: Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB), Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Faxes may be sent to RADB at 301-492-3446.

You can access publicly available documents related to this notice using the following methods:

NRC's Public Document Room (PDR): The public may examine and have copied, for a fee, publicly available documents at the NRC's PDR, Public File Area O-1F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this website, the public can gain entry into ADAMS, which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209,

301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The Accession Number for draft Supplement 47 to the GEIS is ML11227A007.

Federal Rulemaking Website: Public comments and supporting materials related to this notice can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for Docket ID **NRC-2010-0029**.

In addition, a copy of the draft supplement to the GEIS is available to local residents near the site at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, Washington 99352 and at the Kennewick Branch of Mid-Columbia Libraries, 1620 South Union Street, Kennewick, Washington 99338.

All comments received by the NRC, including those made by Federal, State, and local agencies; Native American Tribes; or other interested persons, will be made available electronically at the NRC's PDR in Rockville, Maryland, and through ADAMS. Comments received after the due date will be considered only if it is practical to do so.

The NRC staff will hold public meetings prior to the close of the public comment period to present an overview of the draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS and to accept public comments on the document. Two meetings will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, 802 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington, on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. The first session will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the same location. No comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or in writing. Persons may pre-register to attend or present oral comments at the

meeting by contacting Mr. Daniel Doyle, the NRC Environmental Project Manager, at 1-800-368-5642, extension 3748, or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov no later than Friday, September 23, 2011. Members of the public may also register to provide oral comments within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Mr. Doyle's attention no later than September 23, 2011, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. Daniel Doyle, Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop O-11F1, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Mr. Doyle may be contacted at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of August 2011.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. J. Wrona', followed by a horizontal line.

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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/RA/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

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cc w/encls: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:

See next page

Identical letters have been sent to Ms. V. Kate Valdez, Mr. Rex Buck, Mr. Patrick Baird, and Ms. Camille Pleasants

ADAMS Accession Nos.:

1. Package: ML11161A010
2. Letter to C. Miller: ML11161A011
3. *Federal Register* Notice: ML11091A028
4. "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 47": ML11227A007

*concurrence via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR*	PM:DLR/RPB1	OGC (NLO)	BC:DLR/RPB2
NAME	IKing	DDoyle	LSubin	DWrona
DATE	06/16/2011	06/17/2011	06/29/2011	08/23/2011

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Carey Miller et al. from David J. Wrona dated August 23, 2011

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
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DISTRIBUTION:

HARD COPY:

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ACunanan

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NOKeefe, RIV

GPick, RIV

WWalker, RIV

RCohen, RIV

MHayes, RIV

BMaier, RIV

VDricks, RIV