



ENERGY NORTHWEST

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May 10, 2012
GO2-12-069

10 CFR 50.54(f)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: **COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397
ENERGY NORTHWEST'S 60 DAY RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 12, 2012
INFORMATION REQUEST RELATED TO RECOMMENDATION 9.3**

Reference: Letter dated March 12, 2012, from EJ Leeds (NRC) to All Power Reactor Licensees and Holders of Construction Permits in Active or Deferred Status, "Request for Information Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations 50.54(f) Regarding Recommendations 2.1, 2.3 and 9.3 of the Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident"

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 12, 2012, the NRC issued the subject Information Request. Enclosure 5 of the letter contains specific Requested Actions and Requested Information associated with Recommendation 9.3 for Emergency Preparedness (EP) programs. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.54, "Conditions of licenses," paragraph (f), addressees were requested to submit a written response to the information requests within 90 days.

The letter states that if an addressee cannot meet the requested response date, then the addressee must provide a response within 60 days of the date of the letter and describe the alternative course of action that it proposes to take, including the basis of the acceptability of the proposed alternative course of action and estimated completion date. After a careful review of the requested actions and information, we propose to take the alternative course of action described in Attachment 1 of this letter. The basis for our proposal is explained in Attachment 2. Commitments are identified in Attachment 3.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. ZK Dunham at (509) 377-4735.

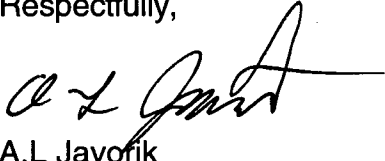
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the date of this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.L. Javorik', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A.L. Javorik
Vice President, Engineering

Attachments: As stated

cc: NRC Region IV Administrator
NRC NRR Project Manager
NRC Senior Resident Inspector/988C
RN Sherman – BPA/1399

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**Proposed Alternative Course of Action for
Responding to Recommendation 9.3 Information Request**

Communications

Request #	Estimated Completion Date	Requested Information
1	10/31/12	<p>Provide an assessment of the current communications systems and equipment used during an emergency event to identify any enhancements that may be needed to ensure communications are maintained during a large scale natural event meeting the conditions described in the Discussion section of the March 12, 2012 Request for Information. The assessment should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify any planned or potential improvements to existing <u>onsite</u> communications systems and their required normal and/or backup power supplies,• Identify any planned or potential improvements to existing <u>offsite</u> communications systems and their required normal and/or backup power supplies,• Provide a description of any new communications system(s) or technologies that will be deployed, and• Provide a description of how the new and/or improved systems and power supplies will be able to provide for communications during a loss of all AC power
2	6/11/12	<p>Describe any interim actions that have been taken or are planned to be taken to enhance existing communications systems power supplies until the communications assessment and the resulting actions are complete.</p>
3	Two dates 9/28/12 10/31/12	<p>Provide an implementation schedule of the time needed to conduct and implement the results of the communications assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct the communications assessment.• Provide an implementation schedule of the time needed to implement the results of the communications assessment.

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Staffing

Request #	Estimated Completion Date	Requested Information
1		<p>Provide an assessment of the onsite and augmented staff needed to respond to a large scale natural event meeting the conditions described the Discussion section of the March 12, 2012 Request for Information. This assessment should include a discussion of the onsite and augmented staff available to implement the strategies as discussed in the emergency plan and/or described in plant operating procedures. The following functions are requested to be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How onsite staff will move back-up equipment (e.g., pumps, generators) from alternate onsite storage facilities to repair locations at each reactor as described in the Order regarding the NTTF Recommendation 4.2. It is requested that consideration be given to the major functional areas of NUREG-0654, Table B-1, such as plant operations and assessment of operational aspects, emergency direction and control, notification/communication, radiological accident assessment, and support of operational accident assessment, as appropriate. • New staff or functions identified as a result of the assessment. • Collateral duties (personnel not being prevented from timely performance of their assigned functions).
	N/A to single unit sites ¹	Provide onsite and augmented staffing assessment considering all requested functions except those related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2. [Phase 1 staffing assessment]
	12/28/14 ²	Provide onsite and augmented staffing assessment considering functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2. [Phase 2 staffing assessment]

¹ See Attachment 2 for further discussion of the Phase 1 and 2 actions for single unit sites such as Columbia.

² This date is four months prior to the currently scheduled start date of Refueling Outage 22, which will be the second refueling outage following the issuance of the NRC Order EA-12-049.

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Request #	Estimated Completion Date	Requested Information
2	Two dates N/A to single unit sites ¹ 11/28/14 N/A to single unit sites ¹ 12/28/14 ²	Provide an implementation schedule of the time needed to conduct the onsite and augmented staffing assessment. If any modifications are determined to be appropriate, please include in the schedule the time to implement the changes. 1. Conduct the onsite and augmented staffing assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The onsite and augmented staffing assessment considering all requested functions except those related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2. [Phase 1 staffing assessment] • The onsite and augmented staffing assessment considering functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2. [Phase 2 staffing assessment] 2. A schedule of the time needed to implement changes will be provided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those associated with the Phase 1 staffing assessment. • Those associated with the Phase 2 staffing assessment.
3	6/11/12	Identify how the augmented staff would be notified given degraded communications capabilities.
4	6/11/12	Identify the methods of access (e.g., roadways, navigable bodies of water and dockage, airlift, etc.) to the site that are expected to be available after a widespread large scale natural event.
5	6/11/12	Identify any interim actions that have been taken or are planned prior to the completion of the staffing assessment.

¹ See Attachment 2 for further discussion of the Phase 1 and 2 actions for single unit sites such as Columbia.

² This date is four months prior to the currently scheduled start date of Refueling Outage 22, which will be the second refueling outage following the issuance of the NRC Order EA-12-049.

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Request #	Estimated Completion Date	Requested Information
6	N/A to single unit sites ¹ 12/28/14 ²	Identify changes that have been made or will be made to your emergency plan regarding the on-shift or augmented staffing changes necessary to respond to a loss of all AC power, multi-unit event, including any new or revised agreements with offsite resource providers (e.g., staffing, equipment, transportation, etc.). Changes will be identified as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those associated with the Phase 1 staffing assessment.• Those associated with the Phase 2 staffing assessment.

¹ See Attachment 2 for further discussion of the Phase 1 and 2 actions for single unit sites such as Columbia.

² This date is four months prior to the currently scheduled start date of Refueling Outage 22, which will be the second refueling outage following the issuance of the NRC Order EA-12-049.

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**Basis for Proposed Alternative Course of Action for
Responding to EP Requested Information**

Communications

There are two separate responses to the information requests related to communications. The alternative timing of responses to requests #1 and #3 proposed in this letter reflects the higher priority placed by the staff, and approved by the Commission in SRM-SECY-12-0025, upon the completion of licensee actions necessary to comply with the Final EP Rule issued on November 23, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 72,560). The proposed alternative timing is warranted as many of the licensee staff resources necessary for performing the communications assessment are the same resources involved in implementing new EP Rule requirements, responding to Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) initiatives related to enhancing communications capabilities (e.g., IER 11-4), and maintaining existing EP communications equipment.

In addition, the estimated completion date assigned to information request #3 will promote alignment between the out-year budgeting/funding of future enhancements, and the development of an accurate and complete enhancement implementation schedule.

Staffing

As presented in Attachment 1 of this letter, a 2-phase approach will be used to respond to the information requests associated with Staffing. The table below summarizes this approach.

Plant Type	Phase 1 Staffing Assessment (for functions except those related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2).	Phase 2 Staffing Assessment (for functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2).
Single-unit plants	Perform staffing assessment and implement actions as required by recent EP Rule using NSIR/DPR-ISG-01 and NEI 10-05.	Perform staffing assessment as requested by 50.54(f) letter using NEI 12-01; provide results per Attachment 1 of this letter.

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Plant Type	Phase 1 Staffing Assessment (for functions except those related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2).	Phase 2 Staffing Assessment (for functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2).
Multi-unit plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform staffing assessment and implement actions as required by recent EP Rule using NSIR/DPR-ISG-01 and NEI 10-05.• Perform staffing assessment as requested by 50.54(f) letter using NEI 12-01 and material from NEI 10-05; provide results per Attachment 1 of this letter.	Perform staffing assessment as requested by 50.54(f) letter using NEI 12-01; provide results per Attachment 1 of this letter.

The basis for this approach is discussed below.

- For multi-unit plants, the Phase 1 staffing assessment will be performed by March 29, 2013, and provided by April 30, 2013. This assessment will consider all requested functions except those related to Fukushima Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 4.2. An assessment considering these functions will be performed in Phase 2.

The timing of the Phase 1 staffing assessment reflects the higher priority placed by the staff, and approved by the Commission in SRM-SECY-12-0025, upon the completion of licensee actions necessary to comply with the Final EP Rule issued on November 23, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 72,560). In particular, Section IV.A.9 of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, requires that licensees complete a detailed analysis demonstrating that on-shift personnel assigned emergency plan implementation functions are not assigned responsibilities that would prevent the timely performance of their assigned functions as specified in the emergency plan. As stated in the EP Rule, this analysis must be completed by December 24, 2012.

Following completion of EP Rule staffing analysis, the staffing assessment associated with the NRC Letter will be performed. Based on staffing analysis experience to date, it is anticipated that a multi-unit staffing analysis will require approximately 3 months to complete and validate. One additional month is allotted for processing of an assessment submittal package.

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As requested, an implementation schedule for any modifications that are determined to be appropriate will be included with the Phase 1 staffing assessment.

Single-unit plants do not need to provide a Phase 1 staffing assessment in response to the 50.54(f) letter as performance of this activity is governed by the recent EP Rule and existing license requirements.

- The Phase 2 staffing assessment will be performed by 11/28/2014, and provided by 12/28/2014. This date is four months prior to the currently scheduled start date of Refueling Outage 22, which will be the second refueling outage following the issuance of the NRC Order EA-12-049. This assessment will consider the requested functions related to Fukushima Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 4.2.

The industry will be responding to multiple regulatory actions resulting from the recommendations contained in the Fukushima NTTF Report, as modified in related Commission Papers (SECY's) and Staff Requirements Memoranda (SRM). One of these actions, in particular, has the potential to impact emergency response staffing levels. This action is associated with Fukushima NTTF Recommendation 4.2 and subsequently issued as NRC Order to Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events EA-12-049 [the Order]. A summary of the Order is provided below.

This Order requires a three-phase approach for mitigating beyond-design-basis external events. The initial phase requires the use of installed equipment and resources to maintain or restore core cooling, containment and spent fuel pool (SFP) cooling. The transition phase requires providing sufficient, portable, onsite equipment and consumables to maintain or restore these functions until they can be accomplished with resources brought from off site. The final phase requires obtaining sufficient offsite resources to sustain those functions indefinitely.

Additional details on an acceptable approach for complying with this Order will be contained in final Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) scheduled to be issued by the NRC in August 2012.

In response to the Order, each licensee must develop new strategies for mitigating beyond-design-basis external events. To ensure accurate results, the staffing assessment for response functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2 must be based on the actions delineated in procedures and guidelines developed in response to the Order. Once the site-specific actions associated with the new response strategies are defined (e.g., down to the procedure or guideline step

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level), the staffing needed to perform these actions can be assessed with the necessary level of accuracy.

Based on a review of the planned actions necessary to comply with the Order, an assessment of the staffing for the functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2 will be provided by 4 months prior to the beginning of the second refueling outage (as used within the context of NRC Order EA-12-049).

As requested, an implementation schedule for any modifications that are determined to be appropriate will be included with the Phase 2 staffing assessment.

The Phase 2 staffing assessment is one component of the overall work plan necessary to implement the requirements of the Order. Columbia Generating Station, as stated in the Order, "...shall complete full implementation no later than two (2) refueling cycles after submittal of the overall integrated plan, as required in Condition C.1.a, or December 31, 2016, whichever comes first." "Full compliance shall include procedures, guidance, training, and acquisition, staging, or installing of equipment needed for the strategies."

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List of Commitments

The following table identifies the regulatory commitments in this document. Any other statements in this submittal intended or planned actions, are provided for information purposes, and are not considered to be regulatory commitments.

Commitment	Scheduled Completion Date
Provide an assessment of the current communications systems and equipment used during an emergency event to identify any enhancements that may be needed to ensure communications are maintained during a large scale natural event meeting the conditions described in the Discussion section of the March 12, 2012 Request for Information.	10/31/12
Describe any interim actions that have been taken or are planned to be taken to enhance existing communications systems power supplies until the communications assessment and the resulting actions are complete.	6/11/12
Provide an implementation schedule of the time needed to implement the results of the communications assessment.	10/31/12
Provide onsite and augmented staffing assessment considering functions related to NTTF Recommendation 4.2. [Phase 2 staffing assessment].	12/28/14
Provide an implementation schedule of the time needed to implement changes associated with the Phase 2 staffing assessment.	12/28/14
Identify how the augmented staff would be notified given degraded communications capabilities.	6/11/12
Identify the methods of access (e.g., roadways, navigable bodies of water and dockage, airlift, etc.) to the site that are expected to be available after a widespread large scale natural event.	6/11/12
Identify any interim actions that have been taken or are planned prior to the completion of the staffing assessment.	6/11/12
Identify changes that have been made or will be made to your emergency plan regarding the on-shift or augmented staffing changes necessary to respond to a loss of all AC power, multi-unit event, including any new or revised agreements with offsite resource providers (e.g., staffing, equipment, transportation, etc.).	12/28/14