



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

February 8, 2021

Mr. Bradley J. Sawatzke
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
76 North Power Plant Loop
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION – ACCEPTANCE LETTER FOR ONSITE
COOLING SYSTEM SEDIMENT DISPOSAL REQUEST
(EPID L-2020-LLL-0031)

Dear Mr. Sawatzke:

By letter dated December 21, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20356A172), Energy Northwest (the licensee) submitted a request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for approval of onsite cooling system sediment disposal for Columbia Generating Station. The request for approval is submitted as a corrective action in response to a minor violation for which the NRC has not exercised enforcement discretion.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to initiate its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

We have performed an acceptance review of your December 21, 2020, submittal and have determined that the information provided is consistent with the details needed for documenting, reviewing, and dispositioning (on a case-by-case basis) requests received from licensees and applicants to dispose of material under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 20.2002, "Method for obtaining approval of proposed disposal procedures."

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 425 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 12 months, which is February 2022. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-8371 or by e-mail at Mahesh.Chawla@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mahesh L. Chawla, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

cc: Listserv

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(EPID L-2020-LLL-0031) DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2021

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DATE	2/5/2021	2/8/2021	2/8/2021	

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