



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

February 28, 2024

Robert Schuetz, Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
MD 1023  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, WA 99352

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION  
(REPORT 05000397/2023006)**

Dear Robert Schuetz:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed its end-of-cycle performance assessment of Columbia Generating Station, reviewing performance indicators, inspection results, and enforcement actions from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The NRC concluded that overall performance at your facility preserved public health and safety. The baseline inspection program was completed at your facility as defined in Inspection Manual Chapter 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program - Operations Phase."

The NRC determined the performance at Columbia Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column, the second highest performance column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix. This conclusion was based on two inspection findings having low-to-moderate safety significance (i.e., White) in the Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstone originating in the fourth quarter of 2021, and all performance indicators within the expected range (i.e., Green). This was a change in Action Matrix status from the Licensee Response Column since the end of the previous assessment period. The NRC informed you of this change when each White finding was issued (Follow-up Assessment Letter dated June 1, 2023, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML23111A237) and Follow-up Assessment Letter dated November 1, 2023 (ML23276B477)).

Therefore, in addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection Response to Action Matrix Column 2 (Regulatory Response) Inputs." This inspection procedure is conducted to provide assurance that the root cause and contributing causes of risk significant performance issues are understood, the extent of condition and the extent of cause are identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

On December 14, 2023, you notified the NRC of your readiness for the supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the performance issues. Therefore, the NRC scheduled this supplemental inspection for March 4-8, 2024. The NRC completed preparation for the direct onsite inspection and had a significant concern regarding your readiness for the inspection since thorough problem identification, causal analysis, and corrective action plans to prevent recurrence had not been completed. Per Inspection Manual Chapter 2515, Appendix B, Section 08.01, the NRC notified you on February 22, 2024, to offer you the opportunity to defer the supplemental inspection to a later date. Accordingly, the supplemental inspection will be deferred pending your notification of readiness to the NRC when you determine that your evaluation is documented with enough rigor and detail to enable NRC inspectors to satisfy supplemental inspection procedure objectives and requirements.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2025. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last 12 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

During the 2023 biennial problem identification and resolution inspection, the NRC identified a chilled work environment in the Operations Department. The Regional Administrator has authorized completing inspection procedure 93100, "Safety-Conscious Work Environment Issue of Concern Follow-up," to review your efforts to address this issue. The NRC will contact your staff to schedule this inspection.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's document system ADAMS. The ADAMS link is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Patricia Vossmar at 817-200-1144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Hay, Michael signing on behalf  
of Miller, Geoffrey  
on 02/28/24

Geoffrey B. Miller, Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000397  
License No. NPF-21

Enclosure:  
Inspection Plan

cc w/ encl: Distribution via LISTSERV

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION  
(REPORT 05000397/2023006) – DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2024

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DOCUMENT NAME: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION  
(REPORT 05000397/2023006)

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML24047A315**

SUNSI Review                      ADAMS:                       Non-Publicly Available                       Non-Sensitive                      Keyword:  
 By: RLB                       Yes    No                       Publicly Available                       Sensitive                      NRC-002

OFFICE	RIV/DORS/SPE	RIV/DORS/PBA/BC	RIV/DRSS/D	RIV/DORS/DD	RIV/DORS/D
NAME	RBywater	PVossmar	TBloomer	MHay	GMiller
DATE	02/22/24	02/23/24	02/26/24	02/26/24	02/28/24

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

# Site Inspection Activity Plan

## 07200035 - Columbia Generating Station (ISFSI)

01/01/2024 - 12/31/2025

Unit	Start	End	Activity	CAC	Title	Staff Count
<b>ISFSI Security Inspection (IP 81311)</b>						1
	7/15/2024	7/19/2024	IP 81311	001006	Physical Security Requirements for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations	

# Site Inspection Activity Plan

## Columbia Generating Station

01/01/2024 - 12/31/2025

Unit	Start	End	Activity	CAC	Title	Staff Count
<b>Security Equipment (.04), Security Training (.07)</b>						2
2	3/11/2024	3/15/2024	IP 71130.04	000736	Equipment Performance, Testing, and Maintenance	
2	3/11/2024	3/15/2024	IP 71130.07	000739	Security Training	
<b>EP Exercise &amp; PI Inspection (2024) - CGS</b>						4
2	3/25/2024	3/29/2024	IP 71114.01	000716	Exercise Evaluation	
2	3/25/2024	3/29/2024	IP 71114.04	000719	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
2	3/25/2024	3/29/2024	IP 71151	001397	Performance Indicator Verification	
<b>FORCE-ON-FORCE PLANNING AND EXERCISE WEEKS - CGS</b>						5
2	4/8/2024	4/12/2024	IP 71130.03	000735	Contingency Response - Force-On-Force Testing	
2	4/29/2024	5/3/2024	IP 71130.03	000735	Contingency Response - Force-On-Force Testing	
<b>RP 6,7</b>						2
2	6/10/2024	6/14/2024	IP 71124.06	000730	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
2	6/10/2024	6/14/2024	IP 71124.07	000731	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
<b>Cyber Security - CGS</b>						4
2	6/24/2024	6/28/2024	IP 71130.10	000741	Cybersecurity	
<b>Security Access Control (.02), Security Plan Changes (.09), Security PIV (71151)</b>						1
2	7/15/2024	7/19/2024	IP 71130.02	000734	Access Control	
2	7/15/2024	7/19/2024	IP 71130.09	001656	Security Plan Changes	
2	7/15/2024	7/19/2024	IP 71151	001338	Performance Indicator Verification	
<b>RP 1,4,PI</b>						2
2	7/29/2024	8/2/2024	IP 71124.01	000725	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	7/29/2024	8/2/2024	IP 71124.04	000728	Occupational Dose Assessment	
2	7/29/2024	8/2/2024	IP 71151	000746	Performance Indicator Verification	
<b>Fire Protection Inspection - CGS</b>						3
2	8/12/2024	8/16/2024	IP 71111.21N.05	001646	Fire Protection Team Inspection (FPTI)	
2	8/26/2024	8/30/2024	IP 71111.21N.05	001646	Fire Protection Team Inspection (FPTI)	
<b>CGS 2025 INITIAL EXAM</b>						5
2	12/8/2024	12/14/2024	OV	000956	FB-OR-ONSITE VALIDATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION (OV)	
2	1/12/2025	1/18/2025	EXAD	000500	FB-OR-INITIAL LICENSE EXAM ADMINISTRATION (EXAD)	
<b>EP 2025 Program Inspection - CGS</b>						1
2	2/3/2025	2/7/2025	IP 71114.02	000717	Alert and Notification System Testing	
2	2/3/2025	2/7/2025	IP 71114.03	000718	Emergency Response Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
2	2/3/2025	2/7/2025	IP 71114.04	000719	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	

# Site Inspection Activity Plan

2	2/3/2025	2/7/2025	IP 71114.05	000720	Maintenance of Emergency Preparedness	
2	2/3/2025	2/7/2025	IP 71151	001397	Performance Indicator Verification	
<b>Inservice Inspection - CGS</b>						1
2	4/14/2025	4/23/2025	IP 71111.08G	000701	Inservice Inspection Activities (BWR)	
<b>RP 1,3,PI - CGS</b>						2
2	5/19/2025	5/23/2025	IP 71124.01	000725	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
2	5/19/2025	5/23/2025	IP 71124.03	000727	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
2	5/19/2025	5/23/2025	IP 71151	000746	Performance Indicator Verification	
<b>CGS 2025 Biennial PI&amp;R</b>						4
2	7/28/2025	8/1/2025	IP 71152B	000747	Problem Identification and Resolution	
2	8/11/2025	8/15/2025	IP 71152B	000747	Problem Identification and Resolution	
<b>License Renewal- CGS 71003 (Phase 3)</b>						2
2	8/17/2025	8/23/2025	IP 71003	000687	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
<b>Security Access Control (71130.02), Security Plan Changes (71130.09), PIV (71151)</b>						1
2	8/18/2025	8/22/2025	IP 71130.02	000734	Access Control	
2	8/18/2025	8/22/2025	IP 71130.09	001656	Security Plan Changes	
2	8/18/2025	8/22/2025	IP 71151	001338	Performance Indicator Verification	
<b>MC&amp;A - CGS</b>						1
2	9/8/2025	9/12/2025	IP 71130.11	000742	Material Control and Accounting (MC&A)	
<b>CGS 2025 BRQ</b>						2
2	9/21/2025	9/27/2025	IP 71111.11B	000704	Licensed Operator Requalification Program and Licensed Operator Performance	
<b>Security Protective Strategy (71130.05) and Target Sets (71130.14)</b>						3
2	10/6/2025	10/10/2025	IP 71130.05	000737	Protective Strategy Evaluation	
2	10/6/2025	10/10/2025	IP 71130.14	000743	Review of Power Reactor Target Sets	
<b>Age-Related Degradation Inspection - Columbia Generating Station</b>						3
2	10/20/2025	10/24/2025	IP 71111.21N.04	001832	Age-Related Degradation	
2	11/3/2025	11/7/2025	IP 71111.21N.04	001832	Age-Related Degradation	
<b>RP 5,8 - CGS</b>						2
2	11/3/2025	11/7/2025	IP 71124.05	000729	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
2	11/3/2025	11/7/2025	IP 71124.08	000732	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing & Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, & Transportation	