



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

March 11, 2026

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 05000397/2025006)**

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 (PIs), inspection results, and enforcement actions from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. 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 partially completed at your facility as defined in Inspection Manual Chapter 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program – Operations Phase" due to the impact on federal government operations because of the federal government shutdown from October 1, 2025, to November 12, 2025, during which only excepted activities were performed.

Columbia Generating Station began the assessment period in the Regulatory Response Column, the second highest performance category of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, based on two White findings in the Occupational Radiation Safety cornerstone, as documented in inspection reports, 05000397/2023090 (ADAMS Accession No. ML23111A237) dated June 1, 2023, and 05000397/2023093 (ADAMS Accession No. ML23276B477) dated November 1, 2023. On February 25, 2025, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection Response to Action Matrix Column 2 (Regulatory Response) Inputs," documented in NRC Inspection Report Columbia Generating Station – 95001 Supplemental Inspection Report 05000397/2024040 and Follow-Up Assessment Letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML25073A062) and the station was transitioned to the Licensee Response Column of the Action Matrix.

The NRC determined the performance at Columbia Generating Station, during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column, the highest performance category of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, because all inspection findings had very low safety significance (i.e., Green), and all PIs were within the expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2027. 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 twelve 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.

This plan also includes one non-routine inspection in calendar year 2026 which is, inspection procedure IP 71003, "Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal, scheduled April 2026. The regional administrator has approved implementation of this inspection procedure.

This letter and its enclosure will be made available for public inspection and copying at [ADAMS Public Documents | NRC.gov](#) and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Please contact me at (817) 200-1146 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Signed by Vossmar, Patricia
on 03/11/26

Patricia J. Vossmar, Acting Director
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000397
License No. NPF-21

Enclosure:
Inspection Plan

cc w/ encl: Distribution via GovDelivery Subscriber

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 05000397/2025006) – DATED MARCH 11, 2026

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 ROP Assessment

DOCUMENT NAME: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION (REPORT 05000397/2025006)

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML26064A028**

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|---|-------------|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: AAS | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive and Publicly Available <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive and Non-Publicly Available | | |
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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Site Inspection Activity Plan

Columbia Generating Station

01/01/2026 - 12/31/2027

| Unit | Start | End | Activity | CAC | Title | Staff Count |
|---|------------|------------|-----------------|--------|--|-------------|
| Age-Related Degradation Inspection - Columbia Generating Station | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | 2/23/2026 | 2/27/2026 | IP 71111.21N.04 | 001832 | Age-Related Degradation | |
| CGS 2026 INITIAL EXAM | | | | | | 5 |
| 2 | 1/25/2026 | 1/31/2026 | OV | 000956 | FB-OR-Onsite Validation Of Initial License Examination (OV) | |
| 2 | 3/1/2026 | 3/7/2026 | EXAD | 000500 | FB-OR-Initial License Exam Administration (EXAD) | |
| Security Protective Strategy (71130.05) and Target Sets (71130.14) | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | 3/16/2026 | 3/19/2026 | IP 71130.05 | 000737 | Protective Strategy Evaluation | |
| 2 | 3/16/2026 | 3/19/2026 | IP 71130.14 | 000743 | Review of Power Reactor Target Sets | |
| EP Exercise & PI Inspection (2026) - CGS | | | | | | 5 |
| 2 | 3/23/2026 | 3/27/2026 | IP 71114.01 | 000716 | Exercise Evaluation | |
| 2 | 3/23/2026 | 3/27/2026 | IP 71114.04 | 000719 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | |
| License Renewal- CGS-71003 (Phase 3) | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 4/27/2026 | 5/1/2026 | IP 71003 | 000687 | Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal | |
| RP 1,4,PI - CGS | | | | | | 2 |
| 2 | 5/11/2026 | 5/15/2026 | IP 71124.01 | 000725 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 2 | 5/11/2026 | 5/15/2026 | IP 71124.04 | 000728 | Occupational Dose Assessment | |
| Cybersecurity- CGS | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | 6/22/2026 | 6/27/2026 | IP 71130.10 | 000741 | Cybersecurity | |
| Security 71130.02/.07/.08 | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | 8/3/2026 | 8/6/2026 | IP 71130.02 | 000734 | Access Control | |
| 2 | 8/3/2026 | 8/6/2026 | IP 71130.07 | 000739 | Security Training | |
| 2 | 8/3/2026 | 8/6/2026 | IP 71130.08 | 000740 | Fitness-For-Duty Program | |
| 2 | 8/3/2026 | 8/6/2026 | IP 71130.09 | 001656 | Security Plan Changes | |
| 2 | 8/3/2026 | 8/6/2026 | IP 71151 | 001338 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection - Columbia | | | | | | 7 |
| 2 | 10/19/2026 | 10/23/2026 | IP 71111.21M | 000713 | Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection | |
| 2 | 11/2/2026 | 11/6/2026 | IP 71111.21M | 000713 | Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection | |
| CGS 2027 INITIAL EXAM | | | | | | 5 |
| 2 | 11/15/2026 | 11/21/2026 | OV | 000956 | FB-OR-Onsite Validation Of Initial License Examination (OV) | |
| 2 | 1/10/2027 | 1/16/2027 | EXAD | 000500 | FB-OR-Initial License Exam Administration (EXAD) | |
| EP Program & PI Inspection (2027) - CGS | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 2/8/2027 | 2/12/2027 | IP 71114.02 | 000717 | Alert and Notification System Testing | |
| 2 | 2/8/2027 | 2/12/2027 | IP 71114.03 | 000718 | Emergency Response Organization Staffing and Augmentation System | |

Site Inspection Activity Plan

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|--------|---|---|
| 2 | 2/8/2027 | 2/12/2027 | IP 71114.04 | 000719 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | |
| 2 | 2/8/2027 | 2/12/2027 | IP 71114.05 | 000720 | Maintenance of Emergency Preparedness | |
| 2 | 2/8/2027 | 2/12/2027 | IP 71151 | 001397 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| Inservice Inspection- CGS | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3/22/2027 | 3/27/2027 | IP 71111.08G | 000701 | Inservice Inspection Activities (BWR) | |
| RP 1,3,PI - CGS | | | | | | 2 |
| 2 | 3/29/2027 | 4/2/2027 | IP 71124.01 | 000725 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 2 | 3/29/2027 | 4/2/2027 | IP 71124.03 | 000727 | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation | |
| 2 | 3/29/2027 | 4/2/2027 | IP 71151 | 000746 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| RP 5,6,7,8 - CGS | | | | | | 4 |
| 2 | 8/2/2027 | 8/6/2027 | IP 71124.05 | 000729 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation | |
| 2 | 8/2/2027 | 8/6/2027 | IP 71124.06 | 000730 | Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment | |
| 2 | 8/2/2027 | 8/6/2027 | IP 71124.07 | 000731 | Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program | |
| 2 | 8/2/2027 | 8/6/2027 | IP 71124.08 | 000732 | Radioactive Solid Waste Processing & Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, & Transportation | |
| Security 71130.01/.02/.04 | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | 8/9/2027 | 8/13/2027 | IP 71130.01 | 000733 | Access Authorization | |
| 2 | 8/9/2027 | 8/13/2027 | IP 71130.02 | 000734 | Access Control | |
| 2 | 8/9/2027 | 8/13/2027 | IP 71130.04 | 000736 | Equipment Performance, Testing, and Maintenance | |
| 2 | 8/9/2027 | 8/13/2027 | IP 71130.09 | 001656 | Security Plan Changes | |
| 2 | 8/9/2027 | 8/13/2027 | IP 71151 | 001338 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| CGS 2027 BRQ | | | | | | 2 |
| 2 | 8/29/2027 | 9/4/2027 | IP 71111.11B | 000704 | Licensed Operator Requalification Program and Licensed Operator Performance | |
| Focused Engineering Inspection 1 - CGS | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | 9/13/2027 | 9/17/2027 | IP 71111.21N | 000714 | Focused Engineering Inspections (FEI Placeholder) | |
| 2 | 9/27/2027 | 10/1/2027 | IP 71111.21N | 000714 | Focused Engineering Inspections (FEI Placeholder) | |
| 2027 Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection - Columbia | | | | | | 4 |
| 2 | 10/4/2027 | 10/8/2027 | IP 71152B | 000747 | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| 2 | 10/18/2027 | 10/22/2027 | IP 71152B | 000747 | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| FORCE-ON-FORCE PLANNING AND EXERCISE WEEKS - CGS | | | | | | 4 |
| 2 | 10/18/2027 | 10/22/2027 | IP 71130.03 | 000735 | Contingency Response - Force-On-Force Testing | |
| 2 | 11/15/2027 | 11/19/2027 | IP 71130.03 | 000735 | Contingency Response - Force-On-Force Testing | |

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Columbia Generating Station

01/01/2026 - 12/31/2027

| Unit | Start | End | Activity | CAC | Title | Staff Count |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|--------|---|-------------|
| Columbia ISFSI Triennial Loading inspection (one week on-site, TBD) | | | | | | 2 |
| | 4/6/2026 | 5/8/2026 | IP 60855 | 001001 | Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation | |
| Security 81311 | | | | | | 1 |
| | 8/9/2027 | 8/13/2027 | IP 81311 | 001006 | Physical Security Requirements for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations | |