



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

August 26, 2002

J. V. Parrish  
Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968; MD 1023  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

**SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -  
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On July 31, 2002, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of Columbia Generating Station. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," the midcycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your Columbia Generating Station facility for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through December 31, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one yellow finding in the emergency preparedness cornerstone. The NRC's regulatory actions, including the supplemental inspection, were completed during the second quarter of this assessment period. Based on this finding having been assessed over a 4-quarter period and the supplemental inspection results finding that the root cause was adequately defined and understood, and the collective corrective actions resulting from the evaluations of the finding having been appropriately addressed, the finding has been removed from the NRC's Action Matrix effective July 1, 2002.

During the second quarter of this assessment period a white finding was identified in the mitigating system cornerstone involving degraded safety-related breakers. Columbia Generating Station is currently in the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on this white finding. The NRC staff plans to review this issue in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." This inspection will be integrated into the supplemental problem identification and resolution inspection scheduled for December 2002.

In our Annual Assessment Letter dated March 4, 2002, we advised you of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of human performance. A substantive crosscutting issue was identified for multiple findings that are of greater than minor significance. The NRC found that

over the course of the previous assessment period, a number of green findings and a yellow finding were identified that were examples of poor human performance with regard to procedural adherence. The NRC staff has not identified similar substantive crosscutting issues during this assessment period. The NRC staff will review your actions to address this issue during the supplemental problem identification and resolution inspection.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction (TI) that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency's Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817/860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

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Regional Administrator

Docket: 50-397  
License: NPF-21

Enclosure:  
Columbia Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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<b>/RA/</b>	<b>/RA/</b>	<b>NMamish</b>	<b>not available</b>	<b>/RA/</b>
8/8/02	8/15/02	8/21/02	8/ /02	8/22/02

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## Columbia Generating Station

## Inspection / Activity Plan

08/18/2002 - 09/30/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>EMB - BIENNIAL MODS</b>		<b>3</b>			
2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB-EP1 - EP EXERCISE BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>3</b>			
2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		09/16/2002	09/20/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/16/2002	09/20/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OB-IN - INTIAL EXAM PREP WEEK</b>		<b>2</b>			
2	X02226	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/02)		09/23/2002	09/27/2002	Not Applicable
	<b>OB-IN - INITIAL EXAMINATION</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	X02226	COLUMBIA INITIAL EXAM (09/02)		10/07/2002	10/17/2002	Not Applicable
	<b>PSB-S1 - ACCESS AUTH/CONTROL, SEC PLAN, AND PIV</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizat		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7113004	Security Plan Changes		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PBE-PIR - PROBLEM ID INSP</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		12/02/2002	12/06/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PBE-SUP - SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>4</b>			
2	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		12/02/2002	12/06/2002	Supplemental Progra
	<b>OB-RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>			
2	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		12/09/2002	12/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB - TRIENNIAL FP</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		03/03/2003	03/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>ACCESSPI - ACRSA/PI</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>ALARA2 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB - ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		05/05/2003	05/09/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OB-PIR - CG PIR INSPECTION</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		06/02/2003	06/06/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB - HEAT SINK</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		06/09/2003	06/13/2003	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

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08/18/2002 - 09/30/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>OB-PIR - CG PIR INSPECTION</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		06/16/2003	06/20/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>ALARA3 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/14/2003	07/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB-EP1 - EP PROGRAM BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB - SSD&amp;PCI</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/22/2003	09/26/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB - 50.59</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		09/09/2003	09/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP-TM - RAD SAFETY TEAM</b>		<b>4</b>			
2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections