



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

March 4, 2003

J. V. Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
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**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
(REPORT 50-397/2003-01)**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

On February 5, 2003, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Columbia Generating Station. The end-of-cycle review for Columbia Generating Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from 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 that may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on a low to moderate (White) inspection finding identified in the Mitigating System Cornerstone. The White finding, which was identified in the first quarter of the assessment period, involved degraded performance of safety-related 4160-volt breakers.

While plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the Regulatory Response Column of the Action Matrix, there was an additional safety significant inspection finding that was present during the first two quarters of the assessment cycle. During the first two quarters, plant performance was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the Action Matrix based on a finding of substantial safety significance (Yellow) in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone that was identified in the third quarter of 2001. The finding involved the failure to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(q) in that Columbia Generating Station did not follow and maintain emergency plans and procedures which met the standards in 10 CFR 50.47(b). The licensee's actions associated with this finding were completed during the second quarter of the assessment period. The NRC staff performed a supplemental inspection and verified the adequacy of the corrective actions taken. As a result, plant performance exited the Degraded Cornerstone Column and entered the Regulatory Response Column in July 2002, based on the White finding (discussed above) identified during the first quarter of the assessment period. Subsequently, the licensee completed their corrective actions and the NRC verified the

adequacy of those actions through performance of a supplemental inspection associated with a finding of low to moderate safety significance (White) in 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. This issue had been identified as a result of multiple findings related to a lack of procedural adherence by numerous personnel. These deficiencies were noted in several areas and affected multiple cornerstones.

The NRC staff conducted a focused problem identification and resolution inspection that reviewed corrective actions to address this human performance crosscutting issue. The NRC staff reviewed performance data and statistics for the past 2 years, which showed marked improvement for the nonoutage period since April 2001. However, because a number of the human performance issues occurred during the previous refueling outage, this issue will remain open to assess the implementation effectiveness of the corrective actions during the scheduled 2003 refueling outage. The effectiveness of these actions will be reviewed as part of the baseline inspection program, including a problem identification and resolution inspection scheduled for June 2003.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2004. 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 inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review meeting.

As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. Based on our final determinations in this regard, we will notify you of any inspection plan changes.

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 this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact William B. Jones at 817/860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator

Docket: 50-397
License: NPF-21

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Columbia Generating Station
Inspection/Activity Plan

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Columbia Generating Station

Inspection / Activity Plan

03/02/2003 - 03/31/2004

| Unit Number | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site | Planned Dates | | Inspection Type |
|-------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | | | Start | End | |
| | SEC-TI | - SECURITY ORDER VERIFICATION (2515/148) | 3 | | | |
| 2 | IP 2515/148 | Inspection of Nuclear Reactor Safeguards - Interim Compensatory Measures | | 03/03/2003 | 03/07/2003 | Safety Issues |
| | EMB | - TRIENNIAL FP | 4 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111105T | Fire Protection | | 03/10/2003 | 03/21/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | ACCESSPI | - ACRSA/PI | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | | 04/07/2003 | 04/11/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7112101 | Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas | | 05/12/2003 | 05/16/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EMB | - ISI | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111108G | Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR | | 05/19/2003 | 05/23/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | OB-PIR | - CG PIR INSPECTION | 5 | | | |
| 2 | IP 71152B | Identification and Resolution of Problems | | 06/02/2003 | 06/06/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 71152B | Identification and Resolution of Problems | | 06/16/2003 | 06/20/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EMB | - HEAT SINK | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111107B | Heat Sink Performance | | 06/09/2003 | 06/13/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | ALARA3 | - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | | 07/28/2003 | 08/01/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | PSB-EP1 | - EP PROGRAM BASELINE INSPECTION | 1 | | | |
| 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 |
| | PSB-S1 | - SECURITY BASELINE INSPECTION | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7113002 | Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizat | | 08/25/2003 | 08/29/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 7113003 | Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Str | | 08/25/2003 | 08/29/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| 2 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | | 08/25/2003 | 08/29/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EMB | - SSD&PCI | 5 | | | |
| 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 |
| | EMB | - 50.59 | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7111102 | Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments | | 09/09/2003 | 09/13/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | RP-TM | - RAD SAFETY TEAM | 4 | | | |
| 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 |

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

Columbia Generating Station

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|-------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | | | Start | End | |
| | RP-TM | - RAD SAFETY TEAM | 4 | | | |
| 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 |
| | ALARA2 | - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 7112102 | ALARA Planning and Controls | | 10/20/2003 | 10/24/2003 | Baseline Inspections |
| | EMB | - MAINTENANCE EFFECTIVENESS | 1 | | | |
| 2 | IP 711112B | Maintenance Effectiveness | | 02/09/2004 | 02/13/2004 | Baseline Inspections |

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