



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE MAY 30 FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will host an open house on May 30 in Richland, Wash. to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance last year at the Columbia Generating Station nuclear plant.

The open house is informal and will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery Conference Room of the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive in Richland. The plant is operated by Energy Northwest and is located near Richland, Wash.

"The NRC continually reviews the safety performance of Columbia Generating Station and each of the nation's commercial nuclear power plants," said Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins. "This meeting will allow us to speak directly with the local community about the plant's performance last year and the NRC's actions to make sure the plant continues to operate safely, including the additional inspections performed during 2011 in response to the events at the Fukushima Daiichi to evaluate the safety of U.S. nuclear plants. Those reviews showed that Columbia Generating Station and other U.S. plants continue to operate safely."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/wnp_2011q4.pdf.

The NRC said Columbia Generating Station operated safely during 2011 and will receive the very detailed inspection regime during 2012 used by the NRC for plants that are operating well. These inspections are performed by resident inspectors stationed at the plant and by specialists from the Region IV office in Arlington, Texas.

Current performance information for Columbia Generating Station is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WASH2/wash2_chart.html.

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