



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region IV
612 E. Lamar Blvd., Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-4125
Telephone: (817) 860-8128

No. IV-08-022
Contact: Victor Dricks
Phone: (817) 860-8128

May 20, 2008
E-Mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC TO DISCUSS 2007 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet in Richland, Wash., on June 17, with representatives of Energy Northwest, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance for last year at the Columbia Generating Station.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at Energy Northwest's Business Services Center, 3000 George Washington Way, Richland.

In addition to the performance assessment, the NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of Columbia Generating Station, as well as the NRC's role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC continually reviews the performance of Columbia Generating Station and the nation's other commercial nuclear power facilities," NRC Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins said. "This meeting will provide an opportunity for a discussion of our annual assessment of safety performance with the company and with local officials and residents who live near the plant."

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2007 and 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_2007q4.pdf .

The NRC utilizes color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors start with "green" and then increase to "white," "yellow" or "red," commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved.

The NRC said Columbia Generating Station operated safely during 2007 and will receive routine inspections during 2008.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas.

Current performance information for Columbia Generating Station 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WASH2/wash2_chart.html .

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