



R-26 nuts & bolts

Columbia Generating Station's 26th refueling outage (R-26) begins May 5, 2023, and is scheduled for 35 days. About 1,250 skilled workers, hired locally and from across the country, will join Energy Northwest's workforce of about 1,000 employees to support refueling and maintenance projects. The work conducted during the refueling outage ensures high levels of equipment reliability is maintained.

Workers will replace 248 of 764 nuclear fuel assemblies in Columbia's core with new fuel. Fuel that has been in the reactor core for six years will be placed in the used fuel pool, which removes residual heat from the assemblies. After a minimum of five years in the pool, the assemblies are moved to Columbia's on-site dry cask storage, where they are stored securely in above-ground, 185-ton, concrete and steel, dry-storage casks. There are currently 54 casks on site, containing most of Columbia's 38 years of used fuel.



***Columbia Generating Station
produced 9.8 million megawatt-hours of
carbon-free electricity in 2022.***

Refueling outages also provide the opportunity to perform required preventative maintenance and work that can only be accomplished when the reactor is offline. Projects include: inspecting the high pressure turbine and moisture separator reheaters; replacing a reactor feedwater drive turbine and pump; replacing back-up transformer oil circuit breakers; replacing a stand-by service water pump and motor; replacing a condensate pump and motor; and various valve replacements, refurbishments and diagnostic testing.

About Energy Northwest

Energy Northwest is a Washington state public power joint operating agency and a premier provider of carbon-free electricity. Energy Northwest comprises 28 public power member utilities, serving more than 1.5 million customers, and provides its members and regional customers with safe, reliable, cost-effective, responsible power generation and innovative energy and business solutions. The agency owns and operates hydroelectric, solar, battery storage, wind and the Northwest's only nuclear power facility. Energy Northwest also explores transportation electrification and new generation projects to the benefit of public power.