

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 9, 2009**News Release 09-06****Rochelle Olson, Corporate Communications, 509-377-4728****Page 1 of 1****Gary Miller, Communications, 509-377-8728**

Energy Northwest Hosts Regional Training Drill

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest will host an emergency preparedness training drill March 10 at its Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant, 10 miles north of here. The day-long drill will begin at 7:00 a.m. and include local, state, and federal agencies.

In addition to Energy Northwest's Emergency Response Organization staff, drill participants will include key professionals from Benton County, Franklin County, Washington State, Oregon State, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and several local and federal law enforcement agencies.

This training drill is the culmination of more than nine months of integrated planning among these agencies and other community resources and will involve more than 300 participants. It will enable the participants to practice a coordinated response in the unlikely event of an emergency at or near the site.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to partner with local, state, and federal agencies to sharpen our emergency response skills in service to our community, and the region as a whole," said Vic Parrish, Energy Northwest CEO.

In conjunction with this joint-agency drill, the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site sirens will be activated in the areas of Hanford known as the 300 and 400 Areas. People near these areas may hear the sirens sound, but no response is required. Public address announcements stating "this is an exercise message" will be made prior to and following the siren tone.

Emergency response drills are conducted several times per year at Columbia Generating Station.

About Energy Northwest:

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state joint operating agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, the consortium has 24 public power members; 20 public utility districts and four municipalities. The agency's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar power projects collectively deliver nearly 1,300 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services. Learn more at www.energy-northwest.com.

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