

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Oct. 5, 2009**News Release 09-17****Rochelle Olson, Public Affairs Manager, 509-377-4728****Page 1 of 1****Michael Paoli, Public Affairs Supervisor, 509-377-4164**

Annual Siren Tests Wednesday

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest, emergency response officials from Benton and Franklin Counties, and the Department of Energy will conduct annual siren tests Wednesday between 10 a.m. and noon.

Testing will include sirens along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers and will be heard between the Vernita Bridge and Leslie Groves Park in north Richland, and at the Horn Rapids Off-Road Vehicle Park, firing range on Horn Road, Columbia Generating Station site and adjoining areas.

Officials will test the siren system multiple times, and each test will be preceded and followed by voice announcements confirming that siren activation is part of a test. Energy Northwest representatives will be located near each siren to confirm proper operation.

Periodic siren tests are conducted to test emergency equipment and train workers on emergency response procedures.

No public response is required during these tests.

In an emergency, county officials would activate the Emergency Alert System to broadcast information to the public over local radio and television stations. Sirens located along the Columbia River would also be activated if it were necessary to warn people on the river.

Telephone Survey

Additionally, a telephone survey will be conducted Wednesday beginning at approximately 6:05 p.m. among people living closest to Columbia Generating Station to verify proper tone alert radio operation. The survey is sponsored by Energy Northwest, and Benton and Franklin County Emergency Management agencies, in cooperation with the Washington Emergency Management Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



About Energy Northwest

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state Joint Operating Agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, Energy Northwest now has 27 public power members; 22 public utility districts and five municipalities. The consortium's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar power projects 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. Energy Northwest -- www.energy-northwest.com.

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