

Leo Bowman
District 1
Max Benitz, Jr.
District 2
James Beaver
District 3

Board of County Commissioners
BENTON COUNTY

David Sparks
County Administrator

Loretta Smith Kelty
Deputy County Administrator



4 January 2010

JV Parrish, Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
Post Office Box 968 – Mail Drop 1023
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

Re: Columbia Generating Station License Renewal

Dear Mr. Parrish,

Benton County is aware that Energy Northwest is beginning the process of renewing its operating license for the Columbia Generating Station with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We want to voice our support for this renewal.

Benton County has a long and sustained record of supporting nuclear energy in our community in general, and of the Columbia Generating Station in specific. We believe that any realistic and sustainable portfolio of clean and affordable baseload power sources must be a mix that includes nuclear energy.

While we are not in a position to comment on specific aspects of the license renewal process at this time, Benton County supports continued operation of the Columbia Generating Station and Energy Northwest's efforts to renew its license to do so. We look forward to learning more about the process in the coming year, and to working with you however we are able to facilitate the license renewal.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "James Beaver", is written over a horizontal line.

James Beaver, Chairman