

+ Columbia: A Major Power Producer

Energy Northwest provides Columbia's electricity to the Bonneville Power Administration, at the cost of production, which delivers the power to utilities throughout Washington and other Western states. Columbia produces enough energy to power approximately one million households. BPA and electricity users in the region depend on Columbia to provide full-time, or baseload, power.

+ Columbia Facts:

Type – Boiling water nuclear reactor

Generating Capacity – Approximately 1,150 megawatts net

Location – 10 miles north of Richland, Wash.

Site Size – 1,089 acres

Plant Milestones

- + Construction permit issued – March 1973
- + NRC issued operating license – December 1983
- + First electricity produced – May 1984
- + Commercial operation began – December 1984

+ About Energy Northwest

Energy Northwest develops, owns and operates a diverse mix of electricity generating resources, including hydro, solar, and wind projects – and the Northwest's only nuclear power plant. These projects provide enough reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to power more than a million Washington homes each year, and that carbon-free electricity is provided at the cost of generation. As a Washington state joint operating agency, Energy Northwest comprises 28 public power member utilities from across the state serving more than 1.5 million ratepayers. The agency continually explores new generation projects to meet its members' needs.

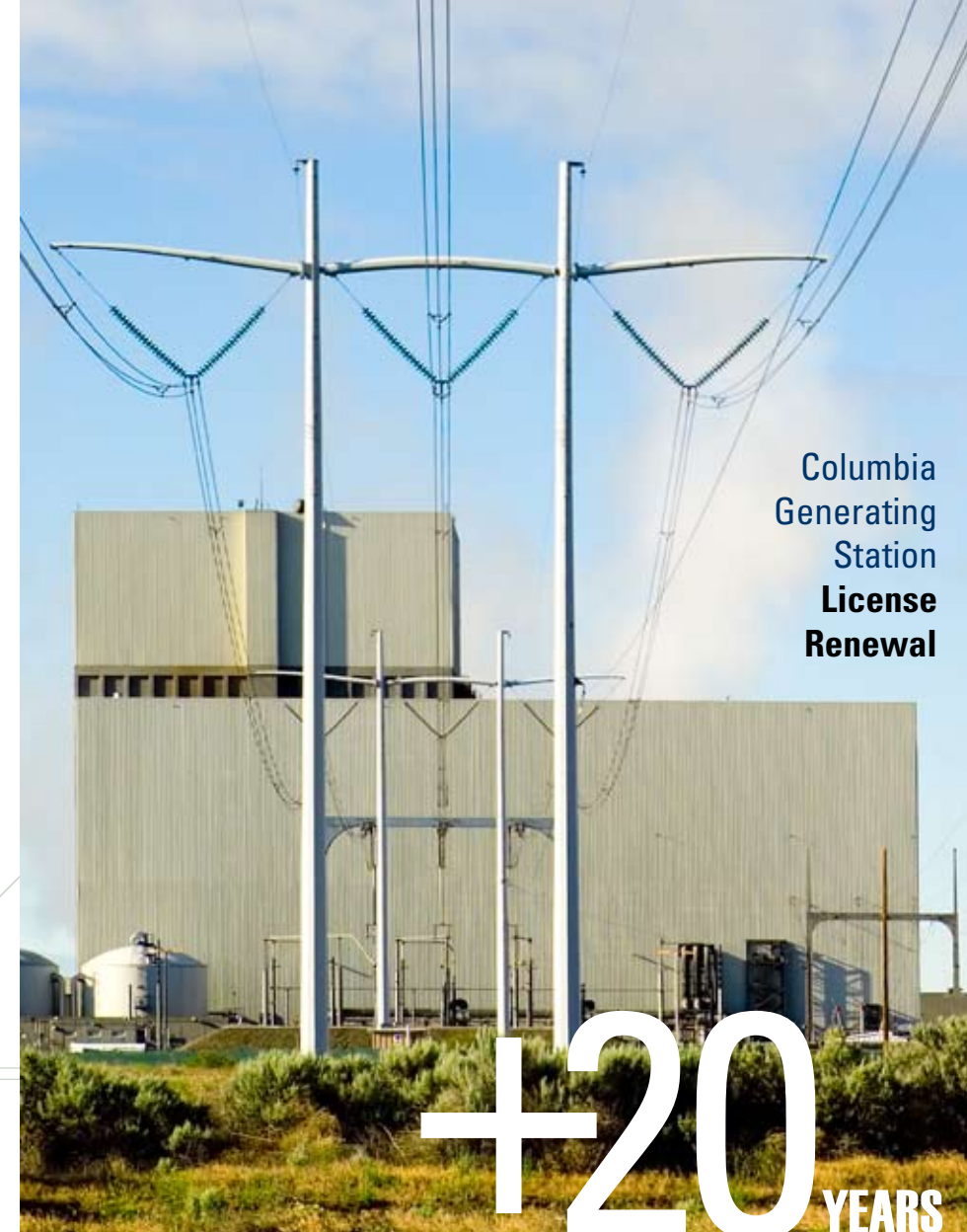
+ For More Information

If you have questions, would like to schedule a meeting or want to provide comments about our license renewal, contact us:

Columbia Generating Station License Renewal
Energy Northwest
Public Affairs
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968
509-372-5860
E-mail: info@energy-northwest.com
Web site: www.energy-northwest.com



January 2010
100003



Columbia
Generating
Station
License
Renewal



If you would like to comment directly to the NRC or check on our license renewal status, use the information below:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
800-368-5642 (toll free)
TTD: 301-415-5575
www.nrc.gov

For a direct link to the NRC's license renewal page, go to:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html>

Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station is the region's only nuclear power plant and is a safe, reliable and efficient source of electricity. Columbia has helped power the Pacific Northwest for more than 25 years and will continue to produce environmentally responsible power for many more years.



Columbia Generating Station's current 40-year operating license expires in December 2023, but the Nuclear Regulatory Commission can approve the renewal of the license for an additional 20 years. The federal government selected the initial 40-year license terms based on financing and economic considerations, not the technical limitations of nuclear power plants. In January 2010 Energy Northwest submitted Columbia's application to the NRC to renew Columbia's operating license through 2043.

Energy Northwest's application must answer one question for the commission: Can Columbia continue to operate safely in the 20-year renewal period?

Energy Northwest anticipates receiving its license renewal by 2012, following the NRC's approximately two to 2½ year review and approval process. Projected cost for license renewal is \$17 million. Expenses include NRC review fees and contingency activity, contractor labor and vendor services.

+ Regulatory Process

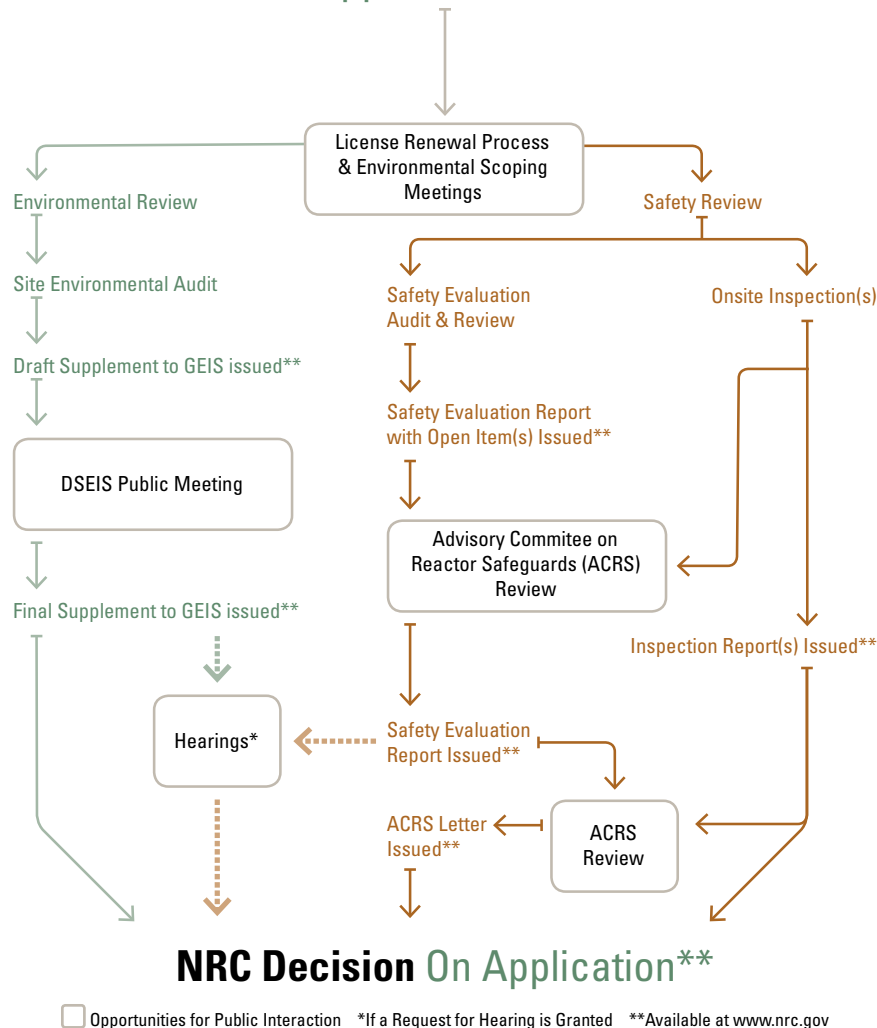
The NRC is the lead federal agency for the regulation of commercial nuclear power plants. The commission's license renewal process follows two tracks – one for review of safety issues and the other for review of environmental issues. The process includes documentation review and onsite inspections.

+ Public Involvement

Public involvement is an important part of the license renewal process; Energy Northwest wants stakeholders to have an opportunity to share their views about license renewal. The NRC will conduct public information meetings multiple times throughout the process. These allow the public to learn more about nuclear power and license renewal. Energy Northwest's public outreach efforts, to include distribution of informational materials and information fairs, will continue throughout the renewal process.

Additional information and developments can be found on the license renewal portion of Energy Northwest's Web site at www.energy-northwest.com.

License Renewal Application** Submitted to NRC



+ Nuclear Power

Nuclear energy is a central part of a balanced, common sense approach to clean energy diversity – energy diversity equals energy security. There are 104 nuclear power plants currently operating across America. Nuclear generation provides reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy. According to a national survey in October 2009 for the Nuclear Energy Institute, 61 percent of the public favors the use of nuclear energy to provide electricity, and 72 percent of those polled agree that U.S. nuclear power plants are “safe and secure.”

+ Industry Regulations and the NRC

The nuclear industry is highly regulated to protect the public, workers and the environment.

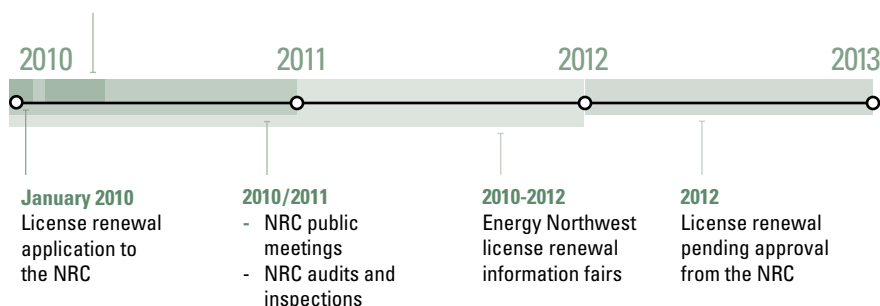
The NRC is a federal agency that independently oversees nuclear energy safety, and has authority under federal law to regulate safety and activities at nuclear energy facilities. The NRC monitors plant performance according to three strategic areas: reactor safety, radiation safety and security. Nuclear facilities are required by law to have highly trained, fully independent NRC inspectors on-site. These inspectors have full access to all plant operations. Every quarter, the NRC posts detailed scores about every nuclear facility's performance on its Web site.

+ Commitment to Safety

The nuclear industry is committed to the safety of communities near its facilities. Nuclear energy facilities protect the public, their workers and the environment with highly reliable safety features. Additionally, industry workers receive ongoing, career-long training. The industry also protects facilities using some of the most sophisticated security systems and highly-trained people in the world.

By April 2010
Application acceptance
review by the NRC

+ License Renewal Timeline



+ License Renewal Benefits

- Generation of clean, affordable electricity assured until 2043.
- Ongoing significant tax revenues to state and local governments.
- Continued employment of a large base of full-time workers who help provide economic stability in the Tri-Cities area.
- Ongoing employee support to local charitable organizations through donations of time and money.

