

## Columbia Generating Station License Renewal

# +20 YEARS



Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant is a safe, reliable and efficient source of electricity. A valuable baseload plant (full-time, low-cost regional power source), Columbia has helped power the Pacific Northwest for more than 25 years, and will continue to produce environmentally responsible power for decades.

Energy Northwest provides the electricity produced by Columbia, at the cost of production, to the Bonneville Power Administration, which delivers the power to utilities throughout Washington and other Western states.

### + Application and Process

Issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Columbia's current 40-year operating license expires December 2023. At the operator's request, the NRC can approve the renewal of a license for a commercial nuclear power plant for an additional 20 years. On Jan. 19, 2010, Energy Northwest submitted Columbia's application to the NRC to renew Columbia's operating license through 2043.

The entire process takes about 5½ years to complete. The first three years are spent in project development, technical reviews and submission. Energy Northwest started this part of the process in 2007, and finished in January 2010. Once the NRC receives the application, the commission can take about two to 2½ years to review and approve the renewal.

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

Energy Northwest anticipates receiving its license renewal in 2012, at an estimated cost of \$17 million. Expenses include NRC review fees and contingency activity, contractor labor and vendor services.

By April 2010  
Application acceptance  
review by the NRC

### + License Renewal Timeline



### + 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.

### + License Renewal Benefits

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

**For More Information**  
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