



1411 W. CLARK - P.O. BOX 2407
PASCO, WA 99302-2407

509-547-5591
FAX 509-547-4116

Prochelle

October 25, 2011

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Cindy Bladey, Chief
Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M, U.S.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Bladey:

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County, Washington supports Energy Northwest's (ENW) license renewal for the Columbia Generating Station. Mr. William Gordon, Board President, who previously sat on the Executive Board for ENW, and Mr. Stuart Nelson, who currently sits on the Participants Review Board (PRB), are well informed on the operations of the nuclear plant.

For nearly 50 years Energy Northwest has produced a diverse mix of clean energy, first through hydroelectric power and later by adding nuclear, wind and solar. Utilizing carbon-free or low carbon energy sources is important to Energy Northwest and ratepayers of Franklin PUD, and throughout the Northwest. It is also vital to protecting the environment for current and future generations. Nuclear power is one of the cleanest and most reliable types of base-load generation. The majority of new renewable resources that have been developed in our region are intermittent and non-dispatchable. Thus, nuclear energy is vital to preserve the reliability of our power system.

As an organization, Energy Northwest is committed to taking care of the environment. Through a comprehensive environmental stewardship program that touches every aspect of the operation, this commitment is formalized in an Environmental Management System (EMS). International Organization for Standardization 14001:2004 certification, which specifies EMS requirements, underscores Energy Northwest's commitment to the environment; exhibits compliance to international environmental standards; and provides third-party validation that Energy Northwest's EMS is effective and sustainable.

We believe that this nuclear energy facility is being operated safely and in a manner that protects public health and safety. The Columbia Generating Station is an exceptionally valuable regional power asset and has been providing large quantities of safe, affordable, environmentally responsible power to Northwest ratepayers for more than 25 years.

Renewal of Columbia's operating license is essential to meeting the region's current and future electricity needs. We respectfully submit this letter in support of the re-licensing of the Columbia Generating Station.

Sincerely,

		
William Gordon, Board President	Stuart Nelson, Board Vice President	Roger Wright, Board Secretary

Cc: Mr. Edward J. Brost, General Manager, Franklin PUD
Mr. Mark Reddemann, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Northwest

LTR: 2011-223