



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF MASON COUNTY
N. 21971 Hwy. 101
Shelton, Washington 98584

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

KARL DENISON, Commissioner
JACK JANDA, Commissioner
RON GOLD, Commissioner

October 11, 2011

Cindy Bladey
Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch
Office of Administration
Mailstop: TWB-05-BO1M
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Bladey:

The Board of Commissioners for Mason County PUD No. 1 strongly supports the renewal of Columbia Generating Station's operating license for an additional 20 years, through 2043. For more than 25 years, Columbia has provided valuable electricity to the region and assisted in bringing economic stability to the state by providing clean, affordable energy to more than one million Washington homes. Washington's economy is dependent upon the low cost federal hydroelectric system and the Columbia nuclear energy facility. Sustained strong economic recovery will require continued support of these reliable and cost-effective baseload power sources.

Energy Northwest has operated Columbia as a responsible steward of the environment, and in a manner that protects the public's health and safety. The draft supplement to the generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) reaffirmed Columbia's low environmental impact. The power produced by Columbia emits zero greenhouse gases, it has a small facility footprint, and it contains secure on-site storage of used fuel.

As energy demand increases, a mix of clean energy resources will be critical to meet increasing electricity needs. More costly intermittent resources such as wind and solar are not a replacement for dependable baseload generation. For these reasons, it is imperative to maintain the vast quantity of carbon-free and baseload power Columbia Generating Station provides. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's preliminary recommendation is that Columbia does not have any environmental impacts that would preclude the option of granting a license extension for an additional 20 years.

Again, we fully support Columbia receiving the 20-year license renewal from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, enabling the region and Mason County PUD No.1's customers to continue benefiting from this safe, clean, and affordable electricity.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ron Gold in blue ink.

Ron Gold
Board President

Handwritten signature of Jack Janda in blue ink.

Jack Janda
Board Vice President

Handwritten signature of Karl Denison in blue ink.

Karl Denison
Board Secretary