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### **Energy Northwest Submits License Renewal Application**

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest announced today that it has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a 20-year renewal of an operating license for its Columbia Generating Station nuclear energy facility. The license renewal process takes approximately 2½ years and involves comprehensive reviews and public hearings by the NRC. The current operating license, granted in December 1983, expires in December 2023. License renewal would allow Columbia to operate through 2043.

“Columbia has been a valuable regional asset for a quarter century, and has provided vast quantities of clean, affordable electricity for the region for decades,” said Energy Northwest CEO Vic Parrish. “Renewal of Columbia’s operating license enables us to continue providing sustainable and low-cost power to meet the energy needs of Northwest ratepayers.”

Columbia Generating Station produces approximately 1,150 megawatts – enough power to meet the needs of one million homes. Nuclear power produces nearly 20 percent of the U.S. power generation mix and is one of the lowest cost sources of baseload electricity.

NRC, the federal agency with oversight responsibility over the nation’s 104 nuclear power facilities, conducts a thorough evaluation of the licensee’s operating equipment, safety and maintenance programs, and equipment testing and replacement programs. It also performs a comprehensive environmental assessment and audit to identify potential environmental impacts of the plant’s continued operations.

The NRC has granted 31 license renewals and 12 are currently under review. NRC expects 17 more license renewal applications over the next seven years.

#### **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 27 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.

Energy Northwest – [www.energy-northwest.com](http://www.energy-northwest.com).

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