

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Oct. 4, 2010Rochelle Olson, Public Affairs Manager, 509-377-4728
Michael Paoli, Public Affairs Supervisor, 509-377-4164

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Page 1 of 2

Annual Siren Tests Wednesday

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest, emergency response officials from Benton and Franklin Counties, and the Department of Energy will conduct annual siren tests Wednesday between 10 a.m. and noon.

Testing will include sirens along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers and will be heard between the Vernita Bridge and Leslie Groves Park in north Richland, and at the Horn Rapids Off-Road Vehicle Park, firing range on Horn Road, Columbia Generating Station and adjoining areas. Two new sirens will be tested this year; both are located near the Horn Rapids housing development. One is south of the community, the other north of the golf course. Both sirens are located east of Highway 240.

Officials will test the siren system multiple times, and each test will be preceded and followed by voice announcements confirming that the siren activation is part of a test. Energy Northwest representatives will be located near each siren to confirm proper operation.

Periodic siren tests are conducted to test emergency equipment and train workers on emergency response procedures.

No public response is required during these tests.

In an emergency, county officials would activate the Emergency Alert System and broadcast information to the public over local radio and television stations. Sirens located along the Columbia River would also be activated if it were necessary to warn people on the river.

There will also be a test of tone alert radios scheduled for the early evening of Oct. 6. If the tone alert radio doesn't automatically activate, residents should contact their respective county emergency management office. In Benton County, call 509-628-2600 or in Franklin County, call 509-545-3546.

Energy Northwest technicians will be performing maintenance on the siren system after the official test Oct. 6 in order to implement system upgrades and perform periodic inspections. This planned maintenance activity will be performed on individual sirens, one at a time, through late November during daylight hours. It is possible that members of the public along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers, and in the Horn Rapids area, may hear short public address messages and siren tones. No response is required as a result of this maintenance testing.



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 homes each year, and that carbon-free electricity is provided at the cost of generation. As a Washington state, not-for-profit 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.

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