

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Feb. 11, 2011**

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## **Additional Siren Testing Continues Monday**

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – Energy Northwest and emergency response officials from Benton and Franklin Counties on Monday will begin tests of individual alert sirens located near the Horn Rapids housing development and Horn Rapids Off Road Vehicle park, and in north Richland. The testing is necessary to evaluate recent siren system upgrades and to perform periodic inspections.

The siren testing includes sirens along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers, and will be heard in north Richland and the Horn Rapids housing development. Testing of all sirens should be completed by March 11.

Three sirens will be tested during the week of Feb. 14, weather permitting. Only one siren will be activated at a time. Testing will occur between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. No siren activation will last more than one minute and there will be at least five minutes between siren activations to help differentiate between testing and an actual three-minute continuous siren activation. Sirens will typically be activated between one and 12 times, although more activations are possible.

No public response is required during these tests. Each test will be preceded and followed by a voice announcement confirming the siren activation is part of a test. Energy Northwest representatives will be located near each siren to confirm proper operation. The siren system will remain in service throughout the testing period.

In an emergency, county officials would activate the emergency alert system and broadcast information to the public over local radio and television stations. The siren system would also be activated if it were necessary.

### **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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