

OPEN LINES

INFORMATION FOR OUR ENERGY NORTHWEST NEIGHBORS

September 2011

Columbia Generating Station Ready to Start Producing Power

Columbia Generating Station will reconnect to the power grid this month after completing the largest and longest refueling outage in its 26-year operational history.

The focus of the outage was to add new nuclear fuel, conduct maintenance and replace the plant's main condenser – the largest scope project ever undertaken at the plant. The condenser converts steam back to water for re-use in the reactor. The new condenser will provide up to an additional 12 megawatts of power generation, essentially paying for

itself over time.

More than 1,800 skilled outage workers were hired from across the country to support extensive maintenance projects throughout the plant. The added workers joined Columbia's normal work force of about 1,100 employees and brought substantial economic value to the region.

Just before the refueling and maintenance outage, Columbia completed its longest, continuous operational run at 505 days, besting the old record of 485 days set in 2006.

NRC Finds no Environmental Impacts to Preclude Columbia License Renewal

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined there are no environmental impacts to preclude a 20-year extension of the operating license for the Columbia Generating Station.

The NRC issued a draft environmental impact statement on Columbia's proposed license renewal on Aug. 23.

Energy Northwest submitted a license renewal application for Columbia, including an environmental report, on Jan. 19, 2010. NRC staff reviewed the report and performed an on-site audit. The staff also considered comments made during the environmental "scoping" process, including comments offered at 2010 public meetings in Richland. Based on its review, the NRC has preliminarily determined the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Columbia are not enough to deny the option of license renewal for energy planning decision-makers.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant has a term of 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC

requirements are met. Columbia's current operating license will expire on Dec. 20, 2023.

Come Support Columbia

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is holding two meetings to solicit public comments on Columbia Generating Station's license renewal.

The meetings will be **Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Richland Red Lion, 802 George Washington Way.** Both meetings will follow the same format and cover the same content.

The NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to each meeting at the same facility.

Complete Your Survey for a Chance to Win a Large Screen TV

In preparation for the semi-annual tone alert radio test and survey, you should receive a self-addressed stamped postcard from your emergency management agency. Please complete the back of the card once the test is finished and return it to report the results of the tone alert radio test to your emergency management agency. The tone alert radio test will be conducted on Oct. 5 at about 7:20 p.m.

This feedback is very important to determine the effectiveness of our ability to alert you if there was an emergency at Columbia Generating Station. The returned post cards will be entered in a random drawing for a large screen television – to be awarded to one lucky recipient each from Benton and Franklin counties – prior to this year’s holiday season.

The annual tests are routine and no action or response from the public is required.

Additionally, Energy Northwest and emergency response officials from Benton and Franklin counties will conduct semi-annual emergency siren tests Wednesday, Oct. 5, from approximately 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Each siren will be preceded and followed by voice announcements confirming the siren activation is a test. An Energy Northwest representative will be located near each siren source to confirm proper operation.

Oct. 5 testing will include sirens along the Columbia River, Horn Rapids area, firing range on Horn Road, Columbia Generating Station and adjoining areas as follows:

- 10:01 a.m. – Columbia Generating Station area public address announcement
- 10:15 a.m. – River siren activated from Benton County Emergency Management

- 10:22 a.m. – River siren activated from Franklin County Emergency Management
- 10:30 a.m. – Siren activated at industrial sites south of Columbia Generating Station
- 10:40 a.m. – Siren activated at Columbia Generating Station

If you feel something might be wrong with your tone alert radio or if you have any questions, for Franklin County residents, please call 509-545-3546 or 1-800-258-5873, and for Benton County residents, call 509-628-2600.

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<http://twitter.com/EnergyNorthwest>



www.youtube.com/energynorthwest2011

Columbia Basin 4th Quarter 2011 Radio Tests Schedule

Below is the schedule for monthly emergency radio tests for the fourth quarter of 2011.

Month	Date	Day	Time
October	5	Wednesday	7:20 p.m.
November	7	Monday	10:25 a.m.
December	6	Tuesday	4:50 p.m.

Following the Oct. 5 test, remember to complete and return your postcard to be entered in a random drawing to win a new large screen TV.

If you are new to the area or your contact information has changed, please inform your county’s emergency management office. Contact information is on the back page of this issue.

Need a Tone Alert Radio?

If you do not have a tone alert radio issued to you by your county emergency management office, or the one you have does not work for any reason, please contact your county emergency management office and one will be provided to you. Contact information is on the back page of this issue.

NRC Gives Columbia Generating Station Favorable Review

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission found Columbia Generating Station “operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives” during fiscal year 2011, according to the agency’s annual assessment.

The NRC, in its annual assessment, determined Columbia met all the cornerstone objectives and was within column 1 – the best column to be in. All inspection findings “had very low (green) significance, and all performance indicators indicated our performance was within the nominal, expected range (green).”

Because Columbia operated safely in fiscal 2011, during fiscal 2012 it will receive the baseline inspection regime that is used by the NRC for plants that are operating safely, according to the NRC. Inspections are performed by the two NRC resident inspectors at Columbia and specialists from the agency’s Region IV office in Texas.

The NRC continually reviews the performance of Columbia and the nation’s other 103 commercial nuclear power facilities.



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined Columbia Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety in fiscal 2011.

Poll Finds Neighbors Strongly Support Nuclear Power Plants

A recent survey found 80 percent of residents living near nuclear energy facilities favor the use of nuclear energy as one way to provide electricity in the United States. Half of those surveyed “strongly favored” the use of nuclear energy, compared to 11 percent who were “strongly opposed.”

The survey found Americans believe companies operating nuclear energy facilities are taking appropriate safety measures and are prepared for the most severe events that could affect U.S. reactors, according to results of a poll by the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Eighty-three percent of those surveyed gave U.S. reactors a high safety rating. The accident at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi plant in March had little impact on the public’s view of their nearby nuclear energy plant.

The nationwide survey of adults living within 10 miles of U.S. nuclear energy facilities was conducted June 11-18 by Bisconti Research Inc. and Quest Global Research Group. The national sample includes 1,152 full-time residents, 18 residents near each of the 64 nuclear plant sites, including Energy Northwest’s Columbia Generating Station. The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points.

Plant neighbors are overwhelmingly favorable to the nearby nuclear power plant: 86 percent have a favorable impression of the nearby nuclear power plant and the way it has operated recently, and 59 percent have a very favorable impression. Eighty-seven percent said they have confidence in their local electric utility to operate its nuclear power plant safely, including 60 percent who strongly agree with that statement. Nearly eight out of 10 (79 percent) said they are confident the company has prepared the plant to withstand the most severe natural events that may occur in this region.

Two-thirds of nuclear plant neighbors surveyed said it would be acceptable to add a new reactor at the site of the nearest nuclear power plant if a new power plant is needed to supply electricity.

Another reason for the strong public support is the central role the nuclear energy facilities play in the local economy and the life of the community. Large majorities agreed the plant helps the local economy and provides good jobs for local people and local businesses that provide services to the plant.

Eighty-seven percent said nuclear energy will be very important or somewhat important to meet America’s electricity needs in the years ahead. Sixty-two percent said nuclear energy use will be “very important.”

Other key measures in the survey include:

- 86 percent agree that when the original operating license expires, we should renew the license of nuclear power plants that continue to meet federal safety standards; 13 percent disagree.
- 79 percent agree we should keep the option to build more nuclear power plants in the future; 19 percent disagree.
- 80 percent agree “electric utilities should prepare now so new nuclear power plants could be built if needed in the next decade” and 72 percent agree those companies “should definitely build more nuclear power plants in the future.”

Eighty-one percent said they are informed about what action to take in case of an emergency at the nuclear power plant nearest to where you live, including 45 percent who said they are “very well informed.”

Setting up and Testing Your Emergency Alert Radio

Your emergency radio is the first and best source of information should a public safety problem occur at one of the Hanford Site nuclear facilities. Place your radio in an easily accessible and open area, such as an adult's bedroom, to ensure you will hear emergency instructions.

When your radio is plugged in with the antenna fully extended, you should see a green alarm light. Although your radio contains batteries in the event there is a loss of power, it is not designed to operate on battery power for extended periods.

Test your emergency alert radio every six months to confirm operation. It is automatically tuned to two emergency broadcasts.

For more information on your emergency alert radio or to report problems, please contact your county emergency management office listed below.

Use the following alarm light indications to verify the status of your radio:

STEADY GREEN – Radio is operational and monitoring Station 1.

BLINKING GREEN – Radio is operational and monitoring Station 2.

STEADY RED – Radio is not able to monitor Station 1 or Station 2.

BLINKING RED – Radio has detected alert tones. If you missed the message accompanying the alert tones, listen to the radio for a few minutes to see if there is an emergency or if the tones were only a test.

CHANGING STATIONS – When you press the mute button and release it when the alarm light blinks green rapidly, you will switch between radio Stations 1 and 2. Your radio is programmed with KONA 105.3 FM as Station 1 and KORD102.7 as Station 2.

MUTE BUTTON – Press to mute or unmute the speaker.



Radio Exchange Centers:

Benton County
Emergency Management Services
651 Truman Ave.
Richland, WA 99352

Franklin County
Emergency Management Office
502 Boeing Street
Pasco, WA 99301

For radio maintenance call your local emergency management agency:
Benton County: 509-628-2600
Franklin County: 509-545-3546/1-800-258-5873

Please Call us with Questions:

Energy Northwest
Emergency Preparedness
Dave Holmes
509-377-8687

Benton County
Emergency Management
Robert (Bob) Spencer, Manager
509-628-2600

Franklin County Emergency
Management Office
John Scheer, Director
509-545-3546/1-800-258-5873