

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 25, 2008****News Release 08-06****Brad Peck, Public Information Officer, 509-377-8247****Page 1 of 1****Gary Miller, Communications, 509-377-8728**

## **Columbia Generating Station Generating Power**

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – The Northwest’s only nuclear power station is back on-line sending at-cost electricity to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the region’s ratepayers. The plant began a gradual power increase at approximately midnight Saturday night and was at approximately 93 percent power at noon today.

Operators intend to reduce reactor power to approximately 75 percent late tonight to allow adjustment to the pattern of fuel rods in the reactor. The plant is expected to return to 100 percent power as early as tomorrow.

The 1,150-megawatt nuclear plant tripped off-line automatically on Thursday when a fitting on a high-pressure hydraulic line failed. The line is part of a Digital Electro-Hydraulic (DEH) system that controls the speed of steam-driven turbines that spin the power plant’s generator. The generator produces more than \$1M worth of electricity per day.

Plant General Manager Tom Lynch said the plant systems operated as designed, automatically sensing low pressure in the leaking fluid line and shutting down the reactor.

Columbia Generating Station has been operating safely since 1984.

Energy Northwest generated 8.36 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2007 at its four generating facilities; Columbia Generating Station, Nine Canyon Wind Project, Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, and White Bluffs Solar Project.

Columbia Generating Station produced approximately 97 percent of that total, and provided it - at the cost of production - to the BPA, who resold the power to customers in the Western states. The only nuclear power plant in the Northwest, Columbia generates enough electricity to power Seattle.

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state Joint Operating Agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, the consortium has 22 public power members; 19 public utility districts and three municipalities. The agency’s nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, and solar projects collectively deliver nearly 1,400 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services.