

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 9, 2009**News Release 09-03****Rochelle Olson, Corporate Communications, 509-377-4728****Page 1 of 1****Gary Miller, Communications, 509-377-8728**

Columbia Generating Station Temporarily Off-Line

RICHLAND, Wash. – Columbia Generating Station automatically disconnected from the electrical grid at 11:25 a.m. yesterday. The 1,150 megawatt nuclear power facility, 10 miles north of Richland, automatically shutdown when monitoring equipment indicated problems with systems that regulate steam flow across the blades of the main turbine. The turbine drives the plant's generator to produce electricity. The facility was online for 80 days when the plant systems safely shut down the reactor.

The plant will remain in a safe, stable shutdown condition while crews investigate and repair the Turbine Control System. Energy Northwest officials estimate the plant will remain offline for no less than two days.

The Bonneville Power Administration, which receives the power from Columbia, has already made arrangements to replace the electricity output from the nuclear plant.

The next scheduled shutdown is a biennial refueling outage in May. The plant is taken off-line every two years to replace approximately one-third of the fuel within the reactor.

About Energy Northwest:

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state joint operating agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, the consortium has 24 public power members; 20 public utility districts and four municipalities. The agency's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar power projects collectively deliver nearly 1,300 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. Learn more at www.energy-northwest.com.

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