

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 13, 2009****News Release 09-04****Rochelle Olson, Corporate Communications, 509-377-4728****Page 1 of 1****Gary Miller, Communications, 509-377-8728**

## **Columbia Generating Station Returns to Service**

**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 increase in power last night and was at approximately 20 percent power at 5:30 p.m. today. The plant is expected to return to 100 percent power by early next week.

Plant safety systems automatically disconnected the 1,150 megawatt nuclear power facility from the electrical grid at 11:25 a.m. on Sunday when monitoring equipment indicated a problem in the “Digital Electro-Hydraulic” (DEH) system.

Workers replaced the valve that was initially suspect and refilled the associated hydraulic lines. At the same time crews inspected other portions of the Digital Electro-Hydraulic control system to ensure it was ready for startup.

The DEH system positions valves that regulate the speed of steam-driven turbines that spin the power plant’s generator.

Columbia repair teams took advantage of the unplanned outage to make optional repairs to other plant systems, further increasing the plant’s future reliability.

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](http://www.energy-northwest.com).

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