

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Oct. 12, 2012**John Dobken, Public Affairs, 509-377-8369  
Angela Smith, Public Affairs, 509-377-4154

News Release 12-13

Page 1 of 1

## **Additional Siren Testing Begins Next Week**

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – Energy Northwest and emergency response officials from Benton and Franklin Counties on Monday will begin additional tests of individual alert sirens. The testing is necessary to evaluate siren system upgrades and to perform periodic inspections.

The siren testing includes sirens along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers in Benton and Franklin Counties, and will be heard in north Richland and the Horn Rapids housing development. Testing of all sirens should be completed by Oct. 25.

Sirens will be tested during the week of Oct. 15, weather permitting. Only one siren will be activated at a time. Testing will occur between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 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 27 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.*

*Energy Northwest – [www.energy-northwest.com](http://www.energy-northwest.com). Find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.*

###