

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 18, 2012John Dobken, Public Affairs, 509-377-8369
Angela Smith, Public Affairs, 509-377-4154

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Page 1 of 1

British Nuclear Group Visits Columbia Generating Station to Benchmark Training Program

RICHLAND, Wash. – Representatives from the Sellafield nuclear site in Cheshire, England, are visiting Columbia Generating Station to learn more about the accreditation process for training programs. Two separate visits to the facility are planned, today and April 25.

The Sellafield team is building training programs to support their site's 20 nuclear-related facilities, which employ approximately 10,000 people. Sellafield officials are aiming to have their training programs accredited by the National Nuclear Accrediting Board within five years.

“Nuclear facilities cannot achieve a high level of excellence without a robust training program,” said Brad Sawatzke, Energy Northwest's Chief Nuclear Officer. “We are pleased to host our British colleagues, and also pleased that they have chosen Columbia's training team and programs as the model.”

The National Nuclear Accrediting Board renewed Energy Northwest's maintenance and technical training programs last year. The Board's decision applies for four years to the training programs for maintenance supervisors and employees in instrument and control, chemistry, radiological protection, electrical maintenance, mechanical maintenance and engineering.

Additionally, the group will tour and benchmark the Nuclear Technology Program at Columbia Basin College. Energy Northwest is a partner with CBC in the program.

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 28 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.



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