

RESOLUTION NO. 227-17

A RESOLUTION of the City of Richland in support of the operation of the Columbia Generating Station.

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the engagement of City of Richland Energy Services (RES) staff with other agencies and utilities related to electric utility operations is to minimize the rate impact to Richland's electric utility customers, and to maintain Richland's electric utility rates as low as responsibly possible; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richland operates RES, a municipal electric utility serving over 23,000 customers with reliable power at the lowest responsible cost; and

WHEREAS, ninety-nine percent (99%) of RES' purchased wholesale power is from carbon-free generating resources, including ten percent (10%) nuclear generation from the Columbia Generating Station; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of Energy Northwest, a Joint Operating Agency of the State of Washington committed to producing electricity from carbon-free generating resources; and

WHEREAS, Energy Northwest operates the Columbia Generating Station, a nuclear power plant that is the largest source of carbon-free electricity in the State of Washington after the State's indigenous supply of clean hydroelectric power; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia Generating Station has an exemplary record of safe, reliable operation and produces enough low-cost, carbon-free electricity each year to supply a city the size of Seattle, Washington; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the Columbia Generating Station by a natural gas combined cycle gas turbine, a similarly reliable source of electricity, would add at least 3,000,000 metric tons of carbon to the atmosphere each year, which would adversely affect efforts to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, following extensive safety and environmental technical reviews and onsite inspections, found that the Columbia Generating Station can continue its safe and reliable operation through 2043; and

WHEREAS, the Richland City Council has found that the operation of the Columbia Generating Station is essential to ensuring that its customers receive a continuing supply of affordable, carbon-free electricity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Richland that Energy Northwest should take all possible steps to ensure the continued safe and reliable contribution of the Columbia Generating Station through its lifecycle to the Northwest clean energy mix as approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 19th day of December, 2017.



ROBERT J. THOMPSON
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



MARCIA HOPKINS
City Clerk



HEATHER KINTZLEY
City Attorney