

RESOLUTION NO. 2402

March 28, 2017

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BENTON COUNTY
SUPPORTING THE COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION**

WHEREAS, Public Utility District No. 1 of Benton County (The District) receives eight percent of its fuel mix from nuclear power from the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) operated by Energy Northwest in Richland, Washington;

WHEREAS, the Columbia Generating Station is a publicly owned nuclear facility operated by a Washington State not-for-profit operating agency since 1984, capable of delivering 1,150 megawatts of continuously available power to the grid, sufficient for a million homes, while emitting virtually no greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS, CGS power is generated at a sustaining cost of 4.2 cents per kWh, which is competitive with natural gas and less expensive than wind and solar power;

WHEREAS, the greatest part of the spent nuclear fuel from the CGS is safely contained in dry cask storage on site, and the CGS is currently building additional capacity to store thirty additional years' worth of spent fuel casks, so that the CGS could operate throughout its useful life without a national spent fuel repository;

WHEREAS, recent evaluations conducted for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are concluding that the CGS facility including the spent fuel storage systems are at very low risk of failure due to credible seismic events;

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was confident enough in the safety and security of CGS operation in 2012 to approve an extension of the CGS's 40-year license for an additional 20 years, thereby extending operation through 2043;

WHEREAS, CGS power is continuously available regardless of weather conditions, and is therefore well suited to support reliable power grid baseload and capacity demand, including backing up increasing levels of intermittent renewable wind and solar power;

WHEREAS, shutting down the CGS would likely result in an immediate shift of our power to CO2 power sources such as natural gas to meet increasing power demands while supporting the power grid baseload; increasing the state's CO2 emissions from natural gas, making attainment of Washington's greenhouse gas emission goals more difficult, and making Washingtonians pay more in potential carbon taxes;

WHEREAS, local effects of shutting down the CGS could include the loss to Washington State of up to 1,000 direct jobs and three times that number of indirect jobs; and

WHEREAS, while building a new nuclear power plant may be uneconomic in today's business environment, shutting down the CGS would be abandoning an investment in a large, continuously upgraded, and successfully operating low-carbon baseload electrical power plant with a thirty-year expected remaining lifetime;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Benton PUD desires low-carbon energy; we acknowledge the CGS as a critical part of low-carbon electrical power generation in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest, for the above reasons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District recognizes the CGS as a critical facility for combatting carbon emissions; and

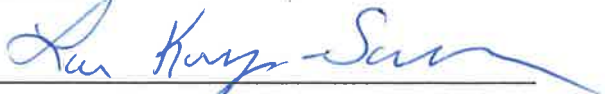
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the District urge the Washington State Legislature to support the continued operation of the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant through its useful life.

ADOPTED by the Commission of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Benton County at an open meeting, with notice of such meeting being given as required by law, this 28th day of March, 2017.



Barry A. Bush, President

ATTEST:



Lori Kays-Sanders, Secretary