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Columbia Generating Station Back Online

RICHLAND, Wash. – Columbia Generating Station was returned to service at 10:40 a.m. this morning. The plant began a gradual power increase and was at approximately 23 percent power at 2:00 p.m.

The plant was automatically taken offline on August 5 following a fault in an electrical distribution area typical of many industrial facilities.

A comprehensive investigation identified overheating of an electrical bus bar in the turbine building as the cause of the fault. During repairs of the affected area, all similar bus bars, associated relays and switchgear were examined. Additional thermal imaging access windows were also installed to aid in monitoring component temperatures during plant operations.

The next shutdown of the plant is expected in spring 2011 for a scheduled refueling outage. The plant is taken offline every two years to replace 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, Energy Northwest now has 27 public power members; 22 public utility districts and five municipalities. The consortium's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar power projects 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. Energy Northwest -- www.energy-northwest.com.

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