

**MEDIA ADVISORY – May 18, 2012**

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**\*\*Media Advisory\*\***  
***Columbia Generating Station License Renewal Announcement;  
Gov. Chris Gregoire to Attend***

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – Energy Northwest will be hosting an event at Columbia Generating Station on Thursday, May 24 at 11:25 a.m. to mark the local announcement of Columbia’s extended operating license. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently informed the agency that Columbia’s license will be extended for an additional 20 years, allowing the plant to continue producing reliable, affordable and environmentally-responsible power through 2043.

Hundreds of Energy Northwest employees, as well as elected officials and business leaders, are expected to attend the event. Gov. Chris Gregoire will deliver remarks in person and Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) will address the audience via video.

Event details are as follows:

A bus will be provided for attending media to facilitate access to Columbia. Media should assemble at our north Richland office location (3000 George Washington Way). The bus pick-up and drop-off times are:

<b>Bus Loading:</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Arrive Columbia:</b>	<b>10:55 a.m.</b>
<b>Depart Columbia:</b>	<b>12:20 p.m.</b>
<b>Arrive GW Way:</b>	<b>12:40 p.m.</b>

*Please RSVP to John Dobken (509-377-8369 or [jcdobken@energy-northwest.com](mailto:jcdobken@energy-northwest.com)) by 5 p.m. Monday, May 21. Members of the media who wish to attend must RSVP and provide government-issued photo I.D. prior to boarding the bus for Columbia. For news media wishing to have satellite trucks present at the event, please call as soon as possible to discuss.*

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**Background on License Renewal**

Energy Northwest began pursuing license renewal for Columbia in 2007. The formal application, more than 2,200 pages, was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in January 2010. Since then, the Energy Northwest team has been working with the NRC to gather information relating to safety and potential environmental aspects of operating an additional 20 years. Based on their thorough independent reviews and inspections, the NRC concluded license renewal should be granted. The NRC process involved multiple on-site visits, as well as opportunities for public input.

**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 generating facility. 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](http://www.energy-northwest.com).*



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