



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

May 21, 2004

EA 04-101

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968; MD 1023
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

**SUBJECT: ONGOING REVIEW OF COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - NRC
INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 05000397/2003007 DENIED
NONCITED VIOLATION (50-397/03-07-01)**

Dear Mr. Parrish:

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2004, in response to our January 30, 2004, letter and integrated inspection report concerning use of nonsafety related instrument air during main steam isolation valve local leak rate testing. A noncited violation (NCV 50-397/03-07-01) had been identified for inadequate local leak rate testing due to the use of the nonsafety related instrument air.

In response to Noncited Violation 50-397/03-07-01, Energy Northwest requested that the NRC withdraw the noncited violation based on the belief that the applicable NRC regulations (10 CFR Part 50 Appendix J, III.C.1) and other industry codes, that discuss closing valves for local leak rate testing, are subject to interpretation with respect to the required qualification of the motive source used to close the valves. We understand that although Energy Northwest has denied the noncited violation, that Energy Northwest will perform the main steam isolation valve local leak rate testing using the safety related air as a conservative method for ensuring the main steam isolation valves are capable of performing their intended safety function.

The NRC is reviewing your response to Noncited Violation 50-397/03-07-01 and will inform you by a separate letter in the future of the results of our review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

William B. Jones, Chief
Project Branch E
Division of Reactor Projects

Energy Northwest

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Docket: 50-397

License: NPF-21

cc:

Rodney Webring (Mail Drop PE04)
Vice President, Nuclear Generation
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Albert E. Mouncer (Mail Drop PE01)
Vice President, Corporate Services/
General Counsel/CFO
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Chairman
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Douglas W. Coleman (Mail Drop PE20)
Manager, Performance Assessment
and Regulatory Programs
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Christina L. Perino (Mail Drop PE20)
Manager, Licensing
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Max Benitz, Chairman
Benton County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 190
Prosser, WA 99350-0190

Dale K. Atkinson (Mail Drop PE08)
Vice President, Technical Services
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Energy Northwest

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Thomas C. Poindexter, Esq.
Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Bob Nichols
Executive Policy Division
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Lynn Albin, Radiation Physicist
Washington State Department of Health
P.O. Box 47827
Olympia, WA 98504-7827

Electronic distribution by RIV:

Regional Administrator **(BSM1)**

DRP Director **(ATH)**

DRS Director **(DDC)**

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Branch Chief, DRP/E **(WBJ)**

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Columbia Site Secretary **(LEF1)**

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ADAMS: ☒ Yes ☐ No Initials: __WBJ__

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