



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

**PROPOSED REISSUANCE OF NPDES PERMIT FOR THE
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT**

Application for Reissuance

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.50 and 90.48 of the Revised Code of Washington; Chapters 463 and 173 of the Washington Administrative Code; and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended; **NOTICE** is hereby given that the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council) has received an application from Energy Northwest (Applicant), P.O. Box 968, Richland, Washington, 99352-0968, for reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. WA-002515-1, for the Columbia Generating Station.

NPDES Permit WA-002515-1 is a wastewater discharge permit for Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station located on the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site. Columbia Generating Station is a boiling water nuclear power reactor that has been in commercial operation since 1984. The plant discharges to the Columbia River at Outfall 001. This reissuance also includes two discharges to ground from other process waste streams at Outfalls 002 and 003.

Tentative Determination to Reissue Permit

The EFSEC Manager has made a tentative determination to reissue the NPDES Permit, No. WA-002515-1, for the Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station (formerly WNP-2) for a period of five years beginning from the date of final adoption, subject to appropriate changes or adjustments as may result from public comments, the public hearing record, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review. Pursuant to Council regulations and State water quality standards, the tentative determination is based on a draft permit that sets forth the following: 1) proposed effluent limitations; 2) schedules of compliance; and 3) other terms and special conditions. Details about this determination are contained in a fact sheet describing the permit conditions and any changes proposed for this facility.

Public Participation

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that a draft permit and fact sheet are available for review. This notice also serves as an announcement of a public hearing that will be held during the Council's May 9, 2006 regular meeting to consider all written and oral comments.

Copies of Draft Permit and Fact Sheet Available

The draft permit and fact sheet may be viewed at the EFSEC website: www.efsec.wa.gov/nuclearproj.html. Copies of the draft permit and fact sheet are on file in the Council Office, located at 925 Plum Street SE, Bldg. 4, Olympia, Washington, and are available for inspection and copying by any interested member of the public. Copies will also be mailed to persons or agencies upon request. To obtain a copy or arrange to view copies, please call Diane Burnett at 360-956-2066.

Comments Invited

The Council invites interested persons to submit written comments concerning the tentative determination to reissue the permit by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 28, 2006. Written comments should be mailed to:

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Attention: Mike Mills
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail at efsec@cted.wa.gov or by facsimile at (360) 956-2158.

The Council will consider all written comments submitted during the comment period in formulating its final determination. The Council's response to all significant comments will be available upon request.

Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing in this matter will be held at 1:45 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at the Washington State University Energy Extension Program Building, 925 Plum Street SE, Bldg. 4, Olympia, WA. Any person requesting to speak to the Council concerning this tentative decision must file a request or petition that indicates the interest of the party and identifies specific concerns by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 28, 2006. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with State administrative procedures.

Council Action

After the close of the comment period and after the public hearing, the Council will consider the information before it and reach a final decision on reissuing the permit in such form as it considers appropriate.

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

By _____
Allen Fiksdal
EFSEC Manager

Dated at Olympia, Washington this 22nd day of March, 2006.