

Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station Celebrates Three Decades of Clean Energy Production

***December, 2015
Richland, Washington***

Article Provided by Energy Northwest:

Like most days at a nuclear energy plant, if it passes without hoopla or fanfare or excitement, that's probably just fine with most people. But while Saturday felt like any other day, it was special. Saturday marked 30 years since Columbia Generating Station first began commercial operations.

"From its first day of commercial operation on December 13, 1984, Columbia has provided the Pacific Northwest safe, reliable and cost-effective energy," Governor Jay Inslee said in a letter to Energy Northwest's CEO Mark Reddemann.

Since that December day in 1984, Columbia has generated more than 214 million net megawatt-hours of electricity.

Columbia, like the nuclear energy industry as a whole, has seen its performance strengthen over time. According to Reddemann, Columbia has been operating at a record setting pace: online for more than five years without an unplanned shutdown; currently in its longest continuous operational run, breaking the record of 505 days set in April 2011. Columbia has been online for 534 consecutive days and counting.

"Safety and reliability are not words casually thrown about at Energy Northwest, but rather the underpinnings of the agency's culture," Elliot Mainzer, Bonneville Power Authority administrator and CEO said in a letter to Reddemann. "Anyone who has had the pleasure of visiting the Columbia Generating Station can attest to the pervasive culture of safety, and anyone in the Northwest who flips a light switch can thank Energy Northwest for its role in our region's reliable, low-cost power supply."

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Formed as a joint operating agency in 1957, Energy Northwest was created to serve the needs of public power by producing reliable, low-cost electricity while promoting public power activities in the region. Today the joint operating agency membership includes nearly every public power utility district in the state and several municipalities. ENW owns and operates four electricity generating facilities: White Bluffs Solar Station, Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, Nine Canyon Wind Project and Columbia Generating Station (nuclear energy facility).



Top section: Columbia Generating Station under construction in the early 1980's and Bottom section: the way Columbia looks today. (Photo provided by Energy Northwest.)

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

December 15, 2014

Mr. Mark E. Reddemann, Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

I offer my congratulations to the men and women of Energy Northwest for their accomplishments as Washington State recognizes the 30th anniversary of Columbia Generating Station. From its first day of commercial operation on December 13, 1984, Columbia has provided the Pacific Northwest safe, reliable and cost-effective energy.

Columbia's performance has only strengthened over time, underscored by its current longest-run record – more than 538 days and counting – and its record-breaking generation of nearly 9.8 million megawatt hours of electricity during fiscal year 2014. Energy Northwest's safety record is also unrivaled in Washington and was recently recognized by the American Public Power Association and Association of Washington Business for achieving millions of work hours without a lost-time accident. Columbia generates nearly 10 percent of the state's energy, without carbon emission, and is an important contributor to our clean energy performance.

These achievements illustrate the talent, dedication and commitment you and your employees demonstrate through the operation of Columbia Generating Station. I commend the Energy Northwest member utilities who have supported the operations of Columbia, as well as the Board of Directors and Executive Board members who have embraced – and in many ways driven – the culture of excellence which has resulted in these successes.

Columbia Generating Station represents how a state joint operating agency and public power utilities can work in tandem to produce many benefits for Washington ratepayers. During the next 29 years of Columbia's licensed operating life – and perhaps beyond – I challenge Energy Northwest to sustain its Excellence in Performance and Excellence in Governance programs, continually pursue the highest standards of industry performance, and always take great pride in the environmental and economic value Columbia Generating Station brings to our region.



Mr. Mark Reddemann
December 15, 2014
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Again, congratulations on your agency successes, and my thanks for the value brought to our state by the men and women who operate Columbia Generating Station.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay Inslee
Governor