



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING

To receive public comments for the

PROPOSED NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT

For the

ENERGY NORTHWEST COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

Introduction

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 made a tentative determination to issue NPDES Permit No. WA-0025151 to Energy Northwest, P.O. Box 968, Mail Drop PE03, Richland, Washington, 99352-0968 for its Columbia Generating Station (CGS). CGS is located on the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site.

The CGS 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.

Background

Energy Northwest operates a nuclear-fueled steam electric power generation plant that discharges to the Columbia River. EFSEC issued the current permit on September 30, 2014 and modified the permit under Amendment #1 dated February 8, 2016 and Amendment #2 dated March 19, 2019. The current permit was administratively extended effective as of the permit's expiration date, October 31, 2019. This extension allowed for continued discharge as indicated under the existing permit.

Effluent limits for pH, flow, chromium, zinc, total residual halogens, PCBs, and priority pollutants contained in chemicals added for cooling system maintenance are unchanged from the permit issued in 2014. The current permit also reflects the changes to the facility's dehalogenation process made in 2019 in Amendment #2.

Tentative Determination to Issue the Permit

EFSEC has made a tentative determination to issue NPDES Permit No. WA-0025151 for the Columbia Generating Station (formerly WNP-2), 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 regulation, this tentative determination is based on a draft permit that incorporates applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Copies of the Permit and Fact Sheet Available

Copies of the draft permit and fact sheet are available free of charge at the project website at [Columbia Generating Station Permits | EFSEC - The State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council](#). Written request for a copy of the draft permit and fact sheet for the cost of reproduction may be submitted to EFSEC, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

A draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was issued on February 16, 2023, marking the opening of a 30-day public comment period, which closes on March 18, 2023 at 11:59pm. An online database will be open during the 30-day public comment period at <https://comments.efsec.wa.gov/> for submission of written comments.

Public Participation


The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that the draft permit and fact sheet are available for review.

For information regarding the Project please contact Amy Moon, EFSEC Site Specialist at 360-664-1362 or amy.moon@efsec.wa.gov. If you have special accommodation needs or need language translation services to provide your comment, please contact EFSEC staff at 360-664-1345 or send an email to efsec@efsec.wa.gov.

Council Action

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. **All comments must be received by EFSEC no later than 11:59 pm on March 18, 2023.**

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

By 

Sonia Bumpus
EFSEC Director

Dated at Olympia, Washington this 16 day of February, 2023.