



The Columbia Generating Station ended its fiscal year in June tallying up the second-highest generation since it began operating in 1984, despite its most challenging 12 months in recent years.

Nuclear energy will play larger role

Columbia Generating Station, near Richland in Benton County, reactor's electricity — enough to power the city of Seattle on a typical day — has gained new importance as Washington seeks by midcentury to largely eliminate the greenhouse gas emissions from oil, gas and coal that contribute to global warming. And the plant's operators have joined in a broader push by the U.S. nuclear industry to play a bigger, long-term role in the America's energy future.

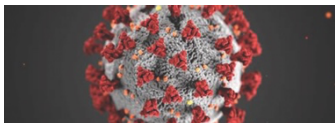
Columbia Generating Station is part of a fleet of more than 90 U.S. commercial nuclear reactors that in 2020 produced one-fifth of the nation's electricity and did so without the direct combustion of fossil fuels.

In pitching for more investment in nuclear energy, industry officials have found allies among some environmentalists who have concluded that the rapidly escalating planetary threat from climate change — hammered home in recent summers by extreme heat, wildfires and powerful hurricanes, and the focus of a United Nation conference that opens Sunday in Scotland — justifies keeping the current generation of plants open as long as possible. They also are supporting efforts to build a new generation of smaller, more nimble nuclear reactors that could pour power into the regional grids and could help prevent blackouts.

"Wind and solar can do a lot of the lift. But when you say it can do all of it — that's not realistic thinking," said Steven Hamburg, chief scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund.

Above includes excerpts from The Seattle Times of Sunday, October 31, 2021 by Hal Bernton

Info: shpr.fyi/morenuclear



CDC gives up on herd immunity

The prospects for meeting a clear herd-immunity target are "very complicated," said Dr. Jefferson Jones, a medical officer on the CDC's COVID-19 Epidemiology Task Force.

"Thinking that we'll be able to achieve some kind of threshold where there'll be no more transmission of infections may not be possible," Jones acknowledged

to members of a panel that advises the CDC on vaccines in a meeting during the first week of November.

CDC and FDA have been claiming that, when the vaccination level reached 70% to 85% of the population, herd immunity would cause COVID to sputter out.

However, immunity created by either vaccination or natural immunity declines.

Though on the plus side, more people become immune through vaccination or surviving infection, on the minus side more people are losing immunity as time passes after their vaccination or infection.

Increasing the percent of people immune is like pouring water into a leaky bucket with leaks so big that the bucket can never be filled. The previously sought herd immunity level, the 70% to 85% full bucket, "may be impossible" as Jones stated above.

Instead of herd immunity, officials may alarmingly redefine success as reaching some low level of infection and death rates.

Above includes excerpts from LA Times and Stars & Stripes.

Info: shpr.fyi/noherdimm

Package undeliverable scam

Criminals are successfully getting people to give their private security numbers, passwords, credit card numbers, etc., by sending a false message that a package is undeliverable.

Clicking "Schedule new delivery" brings up a page that requests your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Those who click "Next Step" after providing that information are asked to add a payment card to cover the \$2.20 "redelivery fee."

After clicking "Pay Now," the visitor is prompted to verify their identity by providing their Social Security number, driver's license number, email address and email password. Scrolling down on the page revealed more than a half dozen working links to real fedex.com resources online, including the company's security and privacy policies.

Info: shpr.fyi/undeliver

Press freedom invaded

The Biden administration's effort to establish itself as a committed champion of press freedom is facing new doubts because of the Justice Department's aggressive legal tactics against a conservative provocateur known for his hidden-camera video stings.

A predawn FBI raid last weekend against Project Veritas founder James O'Keefe and similar raids on some of his associates are prompting alarm from some First Amendment advocates, who contend that prosecutors appear to have run roughshod over Justice Department media policies and a federal law protecting journalists.

Info: shpr.fyi/pressinvade



Vaccine mandate stayed

President Biden ordered the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to mandate vaccines for private workers.

Late Friday came a sharp rebuke by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that marks an important check on the runaway administrative state.

"The Mandate's true purpose is not to enhance workplace safety, but instead to ramp up vaccine uptake by any means necessary," Judge Kurt Engelhardt wrote for the unanimous panel in a withering opinion that extends the court's earlier stay on the OSHA mandate, which had been challenged by GOP states, numerous employers and individuals.

Mr. Biden in early September ordered OSHA to require private employers with 100 or more workers to mandate that their employees be vaccinated or tested weekly.

Info: shpr.fyi/nomandate



Baking Luster Dust is poison

A recent baking trend of using "luster dusts" to give cake frostings and decorations a shimmery look has poisoned young children with heavy metals in at least two states, health researchers warn in [a new report published Friday](#).

A toxic birthday cake for a 1-year-old left six children (ages 1 to 11) severely ill with vomiting and diarrhea after an October 2018 birthday party in Rhode Island. One child needed to be taken to the emergency room.

Investigators traced the illnesses to the cake's thick layer of frosting laced with a rose gold "luster dust." The cake was produced in a commercial bakery, and the health investigators identified three possible sources of the bakery's luster dust. One was an importer who identified the dust as "fine copper powder" that was initially sold as "metallic pigment for consumer goods such as floor coverings." Though the dust was labeled "nontoxic," it was also labeled "nonedible."

Info: shpr.fyi/frostpoison

*Dave Bunting, Nov. 15, 2021
References in links below items.
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daverant.com*