

Dear BPA:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Regional Dialogue proposal. In my 10 years' employment at Seattle City Light, I have come to see the great impact BPA can have on our quality of life in the Northwest. It seems to me that the BPA is still ideally positioned to meet future power needs of our region in the most environmentally and socially responsible way - through prioritizing efficiency and cost-competitive renewable energy. It is taking an unnecessary risk to task individual utilities with this work. I agree with the Northwest Energy Coalition, and urge you to listen to their comments:

#### Meeting future needs

- The 1980 Northwest Power Act makes Bonneville responsible for meeting regional load growth, and transferring that responsibility to individual utilities is a dangerous gamble. The region can end up with too many or too few resources - each outcome costing ratepayers dearly - and quite likely with the wrong resources.

- If BPA and its customer utilities go forward with the risky allocation scheme, utilities must commit to meeting additional needs with energy efficiency and cost-competitive renewable energy, as Bonneville is required to do.

- Bonneville should create an all-conservation and renewables package - and only an all-conservation and renewables package - of power resources for utilities that choose to have BPA meet their additional, "Tier 2" power needs.

#### Energy efficiency

- I commend Bonneville for pledging to get what it considers "its share" of the regional conservation goal set out in the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 5th Power Plan. But to really help protect consumers and minimize the risks associated with the new allocation system, Bonneville must help its customer utilities get ALL the energy efficiency savings in their communities.

- In exchange for the great gift of low-cost federal hydropower, utilities must commit to getting ALL the cost-saving energy efficiency in their service territories.

- I'm happy to see that Bonneville has changed a provision that would have actually penalized utilities with aggressive energy efficiency programs.

- BPA has shown great foresight in supporting the efforts of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. I'm glad to see that support continuing.

#### Renewable energy

- I commend BPA for committing to meet its share of the growth in renewables - about 100 megawatts a year - identified in the 5th Power Plan and for assigning renewable energy costs to Tier 1.

- By allowing utilities to develop new renewables projects between

July 2006 and 2010 without reducing the amount of federal power they receive, BPA provides an incentive to develop renewables in the near term. I commend Bonneville for this proposal.

- BPA has shown some commitment by allocating up to \$21 million a year to helping develop new renewables. The renewables allocation should be firmed up and made a minimum - not a cap.

- Bonneville must provide definite, long-term products for integrating renewables into the system. Products must be available to investor-owned as well as consumer-owned utilities.

- Bonneville should do additional renewables development early on to lock in the best sites for renewables generation.

#### Salmon restoration

- Once again, Bonneville is attempting to drive a wedge between advocates of renewable energy and those trying to avert the extinction of wild Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead. The communities, cultures and economies that depend on the survival of the stocks now endangered by the federal hydropower system must not be held hostage to renewables development, nor vice versa.

- Bonneville must stop blaming fish-survival programs for its failure to offer sufficient wind-firming services. BPA should at least acknowledge that many obligations - not just the one to fish - limit hydrosystem flexibility.

- If Bonneville is really spilling too much water over dams to answer Northwest residents' needs for clean power AND abundant wild salmon stocks, it should advocate for real solutions to salmon restoration - including removal of the four lower Snake River dams and replacing the power with cost-effective clean energy.

Sincerely,  
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