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From: on behalf of BPA Public Involvement

Subject: FW: Comment on Long-Term Regional Dialogue Policy Proposal

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2006 2:58 AM

To: BPA Public Involvement

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Comment on **Long-Term Regional Dialogue Policy Proposal**

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Walter L. Johnson

I believe the current BPA proposal to segregate hydropower for existing Northwest utility customers from new energy demands makes sense and should be implemented with some modifications. Mainly, I believe that some arrangement should be considered that pumps Columbia River water upstream above the dams using off peak power from non-hydro sources. The utilities could then redeem that power during peak periods from hydroelectricity at hydro rates. I believe injury to fisheries could be minimized by drawing the water from many multiple smaller inlets along the river outside of the main channel and perhaps using well water even. The piping could be placed on the floor of the river, outside the shipping channel, so as not to actually lower water levels as much. The empty pipes would still displace water. Such a plan of course requires coordination with other agencies since it might require additional dredging. The economics of this really reflect the fact that peak power is inherently more expensive because you have to build capacity to meet it. With this plan, existing off peak power could expand the supply. This also allows more effective use of solar and wind power which are not 24 hour a day constant producers. An enhancement would be to use tidal power from sterling engines off the coast to contain shoreline erosion while producing power. Every jettie just causes shoreline erosion elsewhere. The least desirable outcome is to burn more fossil fuels and generate more carbon dioxide. By having the hydro system work with other energy sources that have variable rates of production a more dependable overall electric supply would be available to the region. Hence, the segregation of hydropower should not preclude agreements which make use of not naturally flowing stored water hydropower as a vehicle for storing generating capacity for both public utilities and private utilities serving the Northwest.