

Mr. Steve Wright
Bonneville Power Administration
Portland, OR

September 11, 2006

Dear Mr. Wright,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Bonneville Power Administration's Regional Dialogue.

I commend BPA for its pledge to follow the goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency development identified in the Northwest Power & Conservation Council's 5th Power Plan. I am deeply concerned about the impending effects of global warming and peak oil/fossil fuel price volatility, and feel strongly that the US must aggressively pursue load reduction through energy efficiency measures, and ensure that our future energy supply comes, as much as is technically possible, from renewable resources. As a customer of Northwestern Energy, I already purchase Green E+ tags for renewable energy, and have taken personal steps to reduce consumption and increase efficiency in my own home. I expect no less from my power company.

Consequently, I am concerned that any proposal to transfer responsibility for power purchases to individual utilities without a requirement that they follow the 5th Power Plan objectives will result in a huge step backwards. The likelihood of utilities choosing cheap coal over renewables and efficiency creates a future economic liability due to eventual assessment of the external costs of greenhouse gases, as well as the costs of fossil fuel price volatility, on electrical rates. These liabilities would increase costs to consumers and affect investor confidence.

The Regional Dialogue should, at the very least, guarantee that individual utilities will follow the Power Plan's objectives for efficiency and renewable energy. BPA should:

- Secure a specific commitment from each utility that signs a long-term contract for low-cost Tier 1 power to acquire all the cost-effective conservation in its community, as described in the 5th Power Plan.
- Make specific commitments to helping customer utilities acquire all cost-effective conservation.
- Make Tier 2 power a conservation-and-renewables only product.

The Northwest and California are emerging as one of a few power house regions (no pun intended) in the US who are willing to address global warming and future energy needs with vision and courage. The outcome of this dialogue can ensure that our children and their heirs will have a clean, liveable future.

Sincerely,


Stephen Nelson

