

the  
Energy  
Project

1701 Ellis Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone:  
(360) 255-2169

Fax:  
(360) 671-2753

Email:  
chuck\_eberdt  
@opportunitycouncil.org

September 27, 2006

Steve Wright  
c/o David Basaraba  
Communication and Liaison - PL-6  
Bonneville Power Administration  
PO Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

A Project Of

the  
Opportunity  
Council



a human service  
community action agency

The Washington State  
Office of Community  
Development and  
The Washington State  
Community Action  
Partnership

Dear Administrator Wright,

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the regional dialog proposal that Bonneville has been working on these many months. I'm sure this is a difficult task; many mouths to feed and wheels to grease. BPA's pledge to capture your share of the regional conservation and renewable energy goals laid out by the Power and Conservation Council is commendable and extremely important to the Region. It is only just and fair that these costs are assigned to the Tier 1 rates that all customers will pay.

Unfortunately, we do not have the same faith that BPA seems to hold regarding individual customers' abilities or, perhaps, even their willingness to uphold the Power Plan's priorities of conservation and renewable energy. BPA's proposal to use 2010 consumption levels to set the utilities' "high water" marks only further discourages their interest in conservation, because the reduction in the power available to them will outweigh the benefits of conservation in their minds. To secure their commitment to the Power Council's priorities, BPA should require it as an explicit condition of contracts for Tier 1 power. Furthermore, utilities who choose to go their own route must not be allowed to come running back to BPA for additional power when they find developing resources is not as simple or inexpensive as they now envision. While we may be critical of BPA's decisions from time to time, there is no denying the important role it has played in stabilizing costs and resources. In fact, if it weren't for BPA there would be no utility-sponsored low-income conservation in many areas of Washington. We agree with the NW Energy Coalition and others who advocate that Tier 2 power should come from conservation and renewable energy.

We must also encourage BPA not to view the \$21,000,000 commitment to renewable energy as a cap. Stockpiling wind sites may be a good investment, but it doesn't put a single kilowatt on the wires. BPA should more actively pursue installing hardware and

continue figuring out how best to integrate wind and other renewables on the system. Finally, it is essential that BPA stop playing wind and fish costs off against each other.

BPA has been an essential force behind cost-effective energy conservation for many years. It needs to continue doing so and should play a like role in furthering the use of renewable energy resources. Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully,



Charles M. Eberdt  
Director, The Energy Project



Michael Karp  
President & CEO, A W.I.S.H.