

October 15, 2006

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

Dear Administrator Wright,

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

Reliance on fossil fuels hurts birds, plain and simple. Pollution, destruction of habitat, and potentially disastrous global climate change are all significant stresses on birds and other wildlife. Conservation and renewable energy investments are a better option for everyone.

Audubon commends BPA for pledging to get meet its share of the regional conservation and renewables goals identified in the Northwest Power & Conservation Council's 5th Power Plan. Bonneville is also right about assigning conservation costs and its \$21 million commitment to new renewables spending into Tier 1 rates.

However, I'm concerned about the chilling effects of allocating the federal hydropower system, which can be viewed as a form of deregulation. From 2011 on, utilities seeking to meet additional power needs would not be required -- as Bonneville is -- to prioritize energy efficiency and renewables. Therefore, the Regional Dialogue agreement must include strong commitments to energy efficiency and renewable energy development by both BPA and its customers.

To ensure that the Regional Dialogue encourages investment in conservation and renewables, BPA should:

- o 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.
- o Make specific commitments to helping customer utilities acquire all cost-effective conservation.
- o Make Tier 2 power a conservation-and-renewables only product.

Cost-effective conservation and renewable energy investments will provide Northwest ratepayers with the best combination of the lowest energy bills, the most stable rates, and the cleanest possible environment. BPA is perfectly positioned to make that clean and affordable energy future a reality.

Sincerely,



Executive Director  
Audubon Washington