

Comments of the Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County, on
Bonneville's Long-Term Regional dialogue Policy Proposal
October 31, 2006

The Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County, provides critical weatherization services to more than 300 low-income families annually. We have a long history of achieving this success due to the strong partnership with BPA and our local public electric utilities such as EWEB, SUB, EPUD, LANE ELECTRIC CO-OP, and BLACHLY ELECTRIC CO-OP.

We appreciate the good faith effort BPA has demonstrated by engaging input from all stakeholders in this daunting challenge developing a comprehensive, integreous energy plan to provide reliable, safe and affordable future energy supplies. Following are a few brief comments.

- BPA is to be applauded for its pledge to capture additional load generation capacity through regional conservation and renewable energy strategies. This proven approach becomes increasingly valuable as a “least cost” option. Can you imagine what northwest energy rates would be today without the significant load savings achieved through conservation?
- BPA must not relinquish its leadership role in securing new cost effective energy resources. We cannot depend upon corporate boards to execute “due diligence” and consideration of the public well being, when deciding investment strategies. Too often, short term profits dictate investment policies, which can precipitate long term detrimental health / environmental consequences, such as those linked with coal fired generation.
- As we race towards our future with a surging energy appetite, durable, clean and affordable technologies, such as solar thermal, solar electric and wind, warrant even stronger endorsement and public support. The proposed \$21 million per year should not be a cap, but rather a minimum amount of public support. Rate stablization achieved through renewable investments, helps protect all ratepayers, especially low-income families.
- We are poised at this moment, to endorse critical energy policies which will seriously impact the quality of life for future generations. Let them praise the wisdom of the choices we make today.

On behalf of low-income families and as a northwest citizen, thank you for this opportunity to comment on such important energy policy issues.