

"The EPA, Congress and the president need to hear the clear message that any attempt to weaken the Clean Air Act will meet with strong political and legal opposition from the people and states of every region in this country," Friedman continued. "The Clean Smokestacks Act passed last year, virtually unanimously, by the NC General Assembly, mandates that state agencies use all available means to protect North Carolinians from air pollution that originates in other states. Joining this lawsuit would be in compliance with the state's responsibility outlined in Section 10 of the Clean Smokestacks Act."

In addition to those towns and cities already approached, The Canary Coalition and other organizations plan to introduce the NSR lawsuit resolution to Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Durham, Boone, Blowing Rock and possibly others in the next 10 days. The deadline for a state to file a Petition for Review against the EPA's Final Rule on NSR is March 3.

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Utility Customers Help Fund Salmon Projects

PORTLAND, Oregon, February 19, 2003 (ENS) - Oregon utility customers who opted for salmon friendly renewable power have helped to pay for seven new salmon habitat restoration projects in Oregon.

Customers of Pacific Power and Portland General Electric can opt to purchase renewable power under the utilities' Green Mountain Energy® Salmon-Friendly Plan. Under the plan, customers make a monthly contribution through their electricity bill to For the Sake of the Salmon's Pacific Salmon Watershed Fund (PSWF).

The contributions go to projects that restore habitat for threatened fish. On Tuesday, For the Sake of the Salmon announced seven new salmon habitat restoration projects in Oregon, supported by more than 6,000 customers who purchase the utilities' renewable power option.

"By signing up for the Salmon-Friendly option, Oregonians are putting their dollars to work for salmon," explained Betsy Kauffman, program manager with For the Sake of the Salmon. "The projects funded by the program are opening up more than 15 miles of habitat that currently is blocked for fish passage. The Habitat option is a great opportunity for those who care about the future of our salmon runs to help make a difference."

The announcement was made at the site of a rebuilt fish ladder near Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. The additional projects will restore fish habitat in locations near Lakeside, on

the southern Oregon Coast, Scappoose, Happy Valley, Oregon City, Canby and Albany.

"Restoring salmon habitat and purchasing renewable power sends signals throughout the energy community that Oregonians will put their money where their hearts are when it comes to choosing cleaner energy," said Bill Edmonds, director of environmental policy for Pacific Power.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community Based Restoration Program has matched the funds generated by the utilities, for a total contribution of \$165,500 toward habitat restoration in Oregon. The seven projects are also receiving funding and in kind support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, local agencies, watershed councils, and other nonprofits.

"Projects like these are the most visible ways our customers have improved the survival of threatened salmon and steelhead," said Thor Hinckley, PGE's manager of renewable products. "Customers who choose the Salmon-Friendly option have an important role in restoring this resource."

In addition to the salmon habitat projects, Green Mountain Energy Company has announced an increase in wind content of Pacific Power's and PGE's Renewable Usage and Habitat options from 15 to 20 percent new wind. The wind power will come from the Stateline wind generation facility, located on the Oregon/Washington border.

The products' remaining 80 percent of energy will be generated from geothermal sources in northern California. The change in the renewable content will not result in a price increase but will increase the amount of carbon dioxide a household can avoid.

An Oregon household using about 1000 kilowatt hours (kWh) a month can now prevent more than 3,500 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions a year - as much as a car makes when driven almost 4,000 miles.

"Increasing the amount of wind in these renewable options gives Oregonians an even more powerful way to reduce their household's share of CO2," said Karen Norris, program director for Green Mountain Energy Company in Oregon. "Customers in Oregon are responsible for this improvement; they are part of a large customer base that is increasingly demonstrating demand for sources of cleaner energy."

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\$3.2 Million Pledged to Restore New York