



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Memo to: Shannon Greene, Bonneville Power Administration

From: Lyn Dennis, ATNI Executive Director

Re: ATNI Resolution #0552

Date: June 13, 2005

We, the ATNI are forwarding you Resolution #0552, "Resolution Regarding Bonneville Power Administration Regional Dialogue Process," which was recently passed by the ATNI Member Tribes in Tacoma, Washington. This resolution is the ATNI Regional Dialogue Proposal to be considered by Bonneville Power Administration in its development of the Long-Term Regional Dialogue Proposal that will be available for public comment in July 2005. Please forward this resolution to the appropriate party, to be entered into the record.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the ATNI Office, (503) 249-5770.



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2005 Mid-Year Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #05 - 52

"RESOLUTION REGARDING BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL DIALOGUE PROCESS"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, the membership of ATNI are impacted and concerned by the policies and practices of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a Power Marketing Administration of the United States Department of Energy, whose mission is to market the hydroelectric power generated from federal dams in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, BPA is now setting policies in a process called the "Regional Dialogue" regarding its decisions for power sales to regional entities and therefore for the necessary purchases in order to meet its commitments for power sales to customers; and

WHEREAS, in February 2005, certain policy decisions were finalized regarding power sales and rate structures for the period of 2007-2011, which included a decision by BPA to offer 30 MW of power to new customers, including Tribal utilities, but only to such utilities who are able to meet BPA's "standards for service" by January 2006; and

WHEREAS, a number of ATNI member Tribes are working toward the goals required to meet BPA's "standards for service" and are having difficulties meeting those goals by January, 2006, and may therefore be precluded from becoming BPA power customers; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of "Regional Process" decision-making is beginning which will determine issues for the long term regarding power service to all public utilities, including Tribal utilities and those utilities serving Tribal lands, rates methodologies for power sales, benefits to small-farm, investor owned utilities and direct service industries, customer's standards for generation resource adequacy, cost control and dispute resolution, conservation and renewable energy policies, and transmission service policies when utilities are using lines of others to deliver BPA power; and

WHEREAS, the power sales policy decisions will impact existing and proposed Tribal utilities; and

WHEREAS, the rate structure policy decisions will impact the ability of BPA to fund fish and wildlife and cultural resources programs and meet these statutory obligations; and

WHEREAS, the conservation and renewable energy policies will directly impact the environment of the region and will also impact those Tribes seeking to develop renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the transmission service, or transfer service policy decisions will impact existing and proposed Tribal utilities, especially those policies regarding low voltage service since many Tribal utilities are small and take service at lower voltages; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribal rights and resources including lands, water, fish and wildlife, cultural, and other resources have long been used, often without compensation, in the development and operation, and for the long term benefit of the hydroelectric system, and BPA's policies are important to assuring Indian Tribes that their access to the benefits of these resources are not impacted; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports new Tribal utilities and opposes any near term or long term plan by BPA to limit Tribal access to lowest cost BPA power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports conservative rate structures that assure robust funding for fish and wildlife and which mitigate risks that funds will be unavailable for important programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports conservative rate structures that will provide for an increase in the budgets for cultural resources programs over the existing budget which is inadequate to meet the need to protect irreplaceable regional Tribal cultural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports funding of conservation programs which serve to slow load growth and therefore conserve natural resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports BPA's use of renewable energy and the development of new products which encourage the use of renewable energy and supports BPA in purchasing renewable energy generated on Tribal lands; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI supports transfer service policies which support Tribal utilities, including low cost access to the low voltage services.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma, Washington on May 19, 2005, with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary