

Folder Profile

Control # 2005-002459	Name E-mail to Secretary Samuel Bodman from Robert Sprague
Priority Routine	Folder Trigger E-Mail
DOE Addressee Samuel W. Bodman	Source PM-I
Subject Text Robert Sprague comments on BPA and Power price and DSI	Date Received 3/9/2005
Action Office #	Image-In Time 11:43 AM
Signature/Approval NA	Correspondence Date 3/9/2005
Action Requested Program Determination	RIDS Information Head of Agency
Special Instructions	Sensitivity NA
	Classification None
	Point of Contact CARPENTC
	Organization ID EXECCORR2
	Assigned To BPA
	Date Due
	Date Completed 3/11/2005
	Status completed

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Secretary, The

From: Sprague, Bob [Bob.Sprague@alcoa.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2005 11:30 AM
To: Maria Cantwell (maria@cantwell.senate.gov); Patty Murray (senatoe); Rick Larsen (rick.larsen@mail.house.gov); sjwright@bpa.gov; Secretary, The
Subject: BPA and Power price and DSI

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Creation of Bonneville Dam Project and Bonneville Power Administration

On August 20th 1937 President Roosevelt signed the Bonneville Project Act "for the purpose of improving navigation on the Columbia River" (United States BPA, 30). The creation of the Bonneville Dam had been on the minds of farmers, businessmen, and politicians since the Washington State Legislature financed a survey of the Columbia River for potential irrigation projects in 1919. Less than ten years later the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Power Commission published the "308 Report" which gave recommendations for improved water infrastructure along the Columbia River which would encourage economic development <bec01she.html> in the area. After the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, built for the purpose of flood control, as recommended by the "308 Report," navigation, and irrigation, attention turned to the Bonneville Dam site (Fisher, 30). In addition to navigation purposes, the dam was built to generate large amounts of energy for the benefit of the general public. After more than two years of dispute over who should market and sell the energy, this Act delegated responsibilities to two bodies: the Bonneville Power Administration, or BPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Bonneville Power Administration was created as part of the Department of the Interior in order to sell and distribute the power created by the dam in addition to preventing monopolization, a phenomenon common to the energy business. The energy was to be sold at wholesale rates. In November 1937, J. D. Ross was appointed the first Bonneville Power Administrator. Under his supervision the BPA hired staff, formed its policies, built miles of transmission lines, appointed a Bonneville Advisory Board, set rates, and held public hearings. As a direct consequence of its public relations, many grass roots groups supported the BPA (Fisher, 35). The other key player in the creation of the Bonneville Dam, the Army Corps of Engineers, controls the operation of the dam by the Act of 1937. While the creation of the dam gave a sense of hope <bsc01fin.html> to its surrounding community, it also negatively affected <bsc02fin.html> the Native American Populations whose culture <bsc02yogg.html> had developed around the Columbia River. In addition to delegating different tasks to different groups, the Act also gave the facility administrator (under the control of the United States Department of Energy) the authority to take any steps necessary to complete the dam and ensure its efficiency, "by purchase, lease, condemnation, or donation" (United States BPA, 32). The decisions regarding the disposal of personal property rested solely on the judgement of the dam's administrator. This clause of the Act made the destruction of forty traditional Indian fishing sites as well as homes and towns possible.

My name is Robert Sprague. I work for Alcoa in Ferndale Washington. I have live in the city of Bellingham all of my life except for the time I was in the USN. My wife Crystal grow up in Ferndale and has also lived her hole life hear. I have two kids. My Son Rory who is going to graduate this year from High School and my Girl Christina who is 15. I have worked at Alcoa Intalco Works for almost 9 years now. When I first started to work hear we had over 1200 good paying jobs. Now after what BPA did to us in 2001 we are down to now a little over 400. And with what is pending right now we would be out of the 400 family wage job we have right now. I would hope that people would have seen what it did to the economy of Washington State last time and see we could not take a hit like that agene. You maybe asking why did I put this in my e-mail. Well I cut so you could see why BPA was created in the first place. You can in the first paragraph in blue "economic development" I can't see how going to a market price or cutting off the DSI from the power we have gotten in the past would do that. And in paragraph number 2 it reads" The energy was to be sold at wholesale rates" So what I'm asking you to do is hole BPA to what they were created to do in the first place. To supply power to the Northwest to grown the economy of that region. And to charge a wholesale price for that. I hope that you will do what is right by getting the power that the DSI need and to charge wholesale rates for it like BPA should do any ways. Thank you for you time.

Robert Sprague
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