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Bonneville Environmental Foundation and NorthWestern Energy Partner to Offer Wind Power in Montana

June 25, 2003 (Portland, Ore.) The Bonneville Environmental Foundation and NorthWestern Energy announced today that BEF will supply Green Tags (also known as Tradable Renewable Energy Credits) to NorthWestern Energy for resale to residential and business customers in Montana. Under terms of the agreement, BEF will provide NorthWestern Energy with green certificates from wind facilities located in Washington and Oregon.

“NorthWestern Energy becomes the seventh utility in the region to offer BEF Green Tags to their retail customers,” noted BEF President, Angus Duncan. “It’s because BEF gives those customers an immediate opportunity to support green power – more new wind, solar and other renewables in the ground generating clean power.”

“We selected BEF as the source of Green Tags for our E+ GREEN program because of their experience in providing Green Tags that fit with the renewable energy perspectives of the Region. The certified product they provide for us to offer through E+ GREEN come primarily from new wind and solar projects in Wyoming, and the Pacific Northwest,” stated Pat Corcoran, vice president of regulatory affairs for NorthWestern Energy. “We’re also pleased that BEF has committed to investing in new renewable energy projects in Montana in the future.

BEF has marketed green power in Montana since 1999, and committed to its first foundation project there – a grant to support acquisition of critical watershed property in Rock Creek, south of Missoula --in 2000. Three other Montana watersheds have benefited from BEF funding – Bozeman Creek, Stoner Creek and the Big Hole River Valley, where a BEF grant supported a solar-powered off-stream stock-watering project.

“Our commitment to Montana will grow stronger,” pledged Duncan. “BEF is actively seeking new solar and wind projects in Montana from which we can deliver locally-sourced Green Tags to NorthWestern Energy customers.”

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit organization, all of BEF’s net revenues from its Green Tags sales are reinvested into building additional renewable energy

resources throughout the Northwest. Along with supporting utility-scale wind energy, an additional 150 kW of electricity from new solar resources has been installed by BEF and its partners. Recent solar projects include Portland's Brewery Blocks, West Salem High School and the region's largest solar installation on the site of the former Hanford nuclear reservation. Together with its watershed program, BEF has committed over one million dollars to environmental projects across the Pacific Northwest.

About Green Tags

Green Tags are certificates that represent the environmental benefits from a specific amount of electricity from a wind turbine, solar panel or other renewable energy source. When non-polluting energy displaces energy produced from burning fossil fuels, there is a corresponding savings in greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) that is captured as the Green Tag.

BEF's Green Tags are certified by Green-e (www.greene.org) and designated Climate Cool by the Climate Neutral Network as having a net zero impact on the climate – www.climateneutral.com. The new renewable energy resources that produce BEF's Green Tags are certified by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Renewable Northwest Project and the Northwest Energy Coalition.

About BEF

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation, a non-profit organization, was established in 1998 to further the development and use of new renewable energy resources. Through revenues generated from the sales of green power products, BEF funds projects that restore damaged watersheds and support new renewable energy projects from solar, wind and biomass. BEF pioneered the sale of Green Tags in 1999 and has helped establish national standards for certification and trading. Created by regional environmental groups and the Bonneville Power Administration, the Foundation operates collaboratively with but independent of both. Visit online at www.B-E-F.org

About NorthWestern Energy

NorthWestern Energy, as the default supplier, provides electricity and natural gas supply and delivery services to Montana customers who have not yet chosen a competitive supplier or for whom competitive options do not exist. Regardless of a customer's choice of supplier, NorthWestern Energy continues to provide delivery service to all of its customers at regulated rates. Information about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and low income programs and activities for NorthWestern Energy customers is available at www.northwesternenergy.com/energy. NorthWestern Energy is the energy delivery business of NorthWestern Corporation (NYSE:NOR), one of the large providers of electricity and natural gas in the Upper Midwest and Northwest. The company also has investments in the communications services and heating, ventilation and air conditioning businesses. Further information about NorthWestern Energy is available on the Internet at www.northwesternenergy.com.