

RD-0142

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2002 7:47 PM  
**To:** comments@bpa.gov  
**Subject:** Comments on 20 Year Plan

September 18, 2002

Bill Chisholm

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Comments on the Bonneville Power Administrations 20-year plan.

I am the Energy Coordinator for the Idaho Rural Council, and while it is my work on energy issues for the Idaho Rural Council that I will be referring to; these comments are my personal comments as an individual a member and employee of the Idaho Rural Council. These comments are not those of the Idaho Rural Council. The Idaho Rural Council is a grassroots non-profit organization concerned about the quality of life in Idaho. Our concerns cover the gambit from socio-economic and trade issues to environmental issues. IRC is a member of the Idaho Energy Coalition and the Northwest Energy Coalition. Within and without the confines of my job, I as the IRC have been a key leader in Idaho with regard to energy related issues, such as the lack of a coherent and comprehensive energy policy. The IRC is a strong proponent of energy conservation and efficiency having pushed for increases in demand side management programs before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. IRC has been actively promoting alternative energy resources in the state through wind energy conferences and net metering cases before the IPUC.

I support the Public Interest Proposal for increasing energy efficiency and conservation in the region, developing alternative energy such as wind and solar

and for saving our wild salmon. It is not as if we do not have options. The recently released Rand Report and the Tellis Report showed huge potential savings from energy conservation and efficiency in the region. We have abundant sunshine and good wind resources. We must invest in the future, protect our regions precious environment and honor our commitments to the Tribes and to the species that we have pushed to the brink of extinction. We can do that and the steps to that our outlined in the Public Interest Proposal.

Albert Einstein said, "We cannot solve our problems at the same level of thinking at which we created them." The recent energy crisis was not caused by some unpredictable natural calamity; it was caused by poor management and flawed thinking. Energy conservation and efficiency helped bring us out of that crisis and along with a healthy investment in renewables will keep us out of future crisis. We cannot afford to continue down the old path of wasteful consumption and environmental pollution, we must invest in solutions not continue to squander our socio-economic and environmental resources making problems.

I urge you to provide the region with visionary and courageous leadership now. I urge you to support the Public Interest Proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill Chisholm