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October 18, 2002

Stephen J. Wright  
BPA Comment  
P.O. Box 12999  
Portland, OR 97208

RE: Energy Planning and Marketing for the Future

Dear Mr. Wright:

I am a practicing civil engineer and have long been involved in the construction of power plants. In fact working on the WPPSS plants 3 & 5 at Satsop brought my family and I to the Pacific Northwest. Well, Satsop's dead, but we're still here! We are here because we love the outdoor recreational opportunities, the magnificent landscapes and the concern of almost everyone with the importance of environmental protection. The acquisition of new energy resources and the marketing of electric power have such profound implications for the environment's health that I welcome this opportunity to comment.

In our modern world, access to electric power is not longer a luxury, but a necessity. Electricity must be both available and affordable. BPA currently markets and controls approximately 45% of the electric power in the Pacific Northwest. This consist chiefly of the hydroelectric power from the Federal Columbia River Power system (FCRPS), and one nuclear power plant (WPPSS, WNP-2). With such significant market influence comes great responsibility. The Columbia - Snake River hydroelectric system is a public resource. It derives its power from the flow of God's water in public rivers and was built by public money. As a public resource, control of the FCRPS must be left in the hands of a public agency and not relinquished to the utilities. As a public agency, BPA has both moral and legal obligations to operate the system in the broadest best interest of all the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.

I support the Public Interest Proposal (PIP) for the acquisition of new power resources, the marketing of current power and the restoration of endangered wild salmon.

BPA should:

- Meet all new regional energy needs and resource replacement requirements with conservation and renewable resources. BPA is legally obligated to seek out these sources first, see Northwest Power and Conservation Act, 1980. These resources may be acquired either by individual utilities or by BPA directly. Long term conservation and renewable resources are the most cost effective and environmentally friendly means of meeting future power demands. They also offer the greatest price stability, being independent of future fuel cost and availability. The recently released **RAND Report**, and the just published **Tellus Institute Report** make it abundantly clear that clean and affordable conservation and renewable energy resources are readily available to meet our future electrical needs for many years. Tapping these new resources will be a boon to our economy, providing new jobs and new technology.

- Re-establish the program for low-income weatherization with a goal of weatherizing one twentieth of all unweatherized dwellings annually. This is not only humane, but is doubly cost effective providing both conservation savings and increasing the ability of low income users to pay lower bills without the added cost and necessity of bill collectors or the trauma of interrupted service.
- Recognize and act to meet your moral and legal obligations under the Northwest Indian Tribes treaties of 1855, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Act, 1980 to restore endangered wild salmon to the Columbia and Snake River Systems. I fully support partial removal of the four Lower Snake River Dams and return of the river to natural flow.
- Provide an equal and powerful voice at the table to represent salmon. The Indian tribes have been suggested for this role.
- Remove the economic incentives for both BPA and various utilities both public and private to fail to support salmon restoration and conservation and renewable resource acquisition in favor of short-term gains, i.e. keeping rates low!
- Make conservation and renewable resource acquisition and salmon restoration goals enforceable by strict financial penalties for those utilities failing to meet their goals. The rules governing these goals and penalties must be ironclad. Far too frequently in the past utilities have been allowed to sidestep and avoid laudable goals and commitments in order to improve their balance sheet with no negative results to the utility, but with dire consequences for the programs.

I support clean and affordable energy. I support restoration of wild salmon. I believe that the Public Interest Proposal offers the best plan for achieving these goals and I urge BPA to adopt it.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments and please keep me informed of all future occasions to review BPA proposals and to make comments on BPA's future.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Edward M. Henderson, Jr. P.E.*

cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Gary Locke  
Northwest Power Planning Council