

Dear Administrator Wright,

Thank you for taking my comments in support of the Public Interest Proposals for the post 2006 contracts with utilities. I believe BPA has a tremendous opportunity to save wild salmon, make the Northwest an economic leader and to craft an energy plan that will protect business, workers, consumers and the environment.

I urge you to adopt the Public Interest Proposals (PIP) because it will create more certainty around prices and energy supply, plot the best fiscal course for the Northwest and protect the environment and human health.

I strongly favor the Public Interest Proposals. The PIPs

1. will save working families money by creating a hedge against fluctuating fuel prices;
2. provide more certainty in our energy supply and prices;
3. will support local communities by creating new jobs in the region and revitalize the commercial fishing and recreational industries;
4. help Bonneville protect wild salmon in the rivers by giving salmon an equitable voice in determining how the river is run and creating a hedge against situations when the agency would violate its legal responsibility to salmon;
5. provide enormous environmental benefits in the form of cleaner air, water, public lands and human health.

Investments in conservation and renewables are the most cost effective investments available to us.

We can and should meet all new regional energy needs and replacement resources – about 350 average Megawatts annually – with cost effective conservation and renewables. Bonneville is legally required to do this.

- Using new renewables and energy efficiency to meet future load growth and replace old energy resources is more cost effective than burning fossil fuels to generate power. This point is illustrated by a recent integrated resource plan done by PacifiCorp, which determined that creating 3000 new megawatts of renewables is the most cost effective choice for the Pacific system.
- By cultivating renewable energy resources and restoring investments in energy efficiency programs like those that Bonneville had in the 1980s and early 1990s, we will save ratepayers and businesses money while improving environmental conditions at the same time.

The PIPs provide accountability.

BPA should penalize utilities that fail to meet their conservation and renewable targets and the funds collected should be used meet those targets.

- We must take a longer term look at our energy future. Due to pressure from ratepayers and competition, utilities will not make the necessary investments in conservation and renewables on their own. A regional planner is necessary to lead our region into the new century. Bonneville Power Administration is the only body capable of providing that leadership.
- BPA has a legal responsibility to prioritize energy conservation and consider the environmental and social costs of its energy resource choices.
- BPA can sustain successful conservation and renewable programs. It had world-class conservation programs in the 1980s and early 1990s and is more than capable of repeating that success.

Low-Income Weatherization makes economic sense and is more humane than funding bill-collection activities.

BPA should fund local agencies to weatherize one twentieth of all unweatherized dwellings annually.

- These programs actually reduce utility costs because more people pay their bills and continue as customers. This means the utility does not spend money trying to collect from poor families who cannot pay.
- We currently weatherize only one hundredth of all unweatherized homes per year.
- Current economic conditions also make this a very humane thing to do by making it easier for the poorest families to make ends meet.

Renewables - the time is now

Economic and environmental benefits of investing in renewable energy make this an easy choice.

- There are thousands of megawatts of renewables waiting to be developed in our region.
- Renewables create an excellent hedge against fluctuations in fossil fuel prices like what we saw in the “Energy Crisis” of 2001.

- Building new wind and other renewable plants will create thousands of new jobs, and help enrich rural economies that sorely need this economic development.
- Developing renewable energy resources instead of burning fossil fuels will reduce global warming by reducing CO₂ emissions.

Cost Estimates make the Public Interest Proposals a win-win-win situation for utilities, ratepayers, and our economy.

- The PIPS reduce bills for residential and industrial customers, while creating a more stable energy supply for the region.
- Implementing the conservation measures in the PIPS will save 175 average megawatts per year, or 3500 aMW over twenty years, more than three times the capacity of Columbia Generating Station.
- Implementing the renewable energy components of the PIPs will generate 175 aMW annually, or 3500 aMW over twenty years.
- These investments represent a 60% increase in clean energy investments regionally for the utilities.
- The cost of these clean energy investments will be offset significantly by reducing the need to purchase power or build gas-fired power plants.

The PIPs provide enormous environmental benefits that we sorely need.

- The PIPs will make our air and water cleaner by reducing fossil fuel emissions.
- The PIPs will protect our public lands by reducing consumption of oil and gas and therefore the need to dig and drill in wild places.
- Endangered species in these wild places will benefit from their habitat remaining intact.
- Reducing our consumption of fossil fuels will also protect human health and slow global warming.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input. I sincerely hope that you will take advantage of the momentous opportunity that Bonneville has to stimulate economic growth, provide the most certain long-term rate relief to consumers and protect the environment.

Sincerely,