

RD-0177

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 01, 2002 9:05 AM

**To:** comment@bpa.gov

**Subject:** input in lieu of public hearings

I would like to direct your attention to the advantages of utility-scale photovoltaics for the northwest region.

1. Construction is quicker and can be incremental, compared to conventional or nuclear sources, just as has been proven with the wind farms.
2. No fuels are required as on-going cost, and no wastes or carbon load are generated, just as has been proven with the wind farms.
3. While photovoltaics are not as effective in the northwest as in southwest, there are areas of Eastern Oregon where performance is very favorable.
4. This performance complements the seasonal availability of our hydro-electric resource, yielding most power at times of lowest water flow. It also works in conjunction with hydro-electric using hydro's flexibility to balance night/day production, and giving overall savings in required water flow.

Ten years ago Northwest power Planning Council had solar electric generation on its priority list, but low on the list due to newness of the technology and initial cost. By now we see the cost-effective application on road construction signs and telemetry everywhere. Utilities and governments are promoting and subsidizing solar electric installations on customer's homes. I contend that if it can be recommended to customers, then utilities themselves should be making an equal commitment to this improving technology with installation of utility scale photovoltaic generating installations in the northwest.

Steve Willey

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