

RD-0186

Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2002 1:43 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Public Interest Proposal

Mr. Wright,

On behalf of over 800 members of the Methow Valley Citizens Council, please accept the following comments regarding the financial difficulties of the Bonneville Power Administration should that have resulted in rate hikes for public utility districts, reductions in conservation programs, cutbacks in long-range planning for distributive generation using renewable power sources.

The Public Interest Proposal would develop all cost-effective conservation and sufficient renewable resources necessary to ensure an adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power system for the region. To do so, this proposal establishes stewardship obligation levels for conservation savings, renewable resource development, and low-income weatherization based on the total electric load of the region. Each utility is then given its share of the target to meet, with Bonneville ensuring quality control.

The proposal includes the following conservation measures.

1. Increases in energy demand must be met with cost-effective energy efficiency and new, renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass resources.
2. BPA customers (the utilities) must meet conservation goals set by the Northwest Power Planning Council. We estimate this target as approximately 175 average megawatts per year.
3. BPA will provide quality control to ensure that the program is run efficiently and ultimately be the backstop in case a utility does not meet its conservation goal.