

RD-0296

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2002 8:35 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: BPA should promote renewables and wild salmon restoration

Administrator Steve Wright
PO Box 12999
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Administrator Steve Wright,

I strongly support a clean energy future for our region that includes plentiful wild salmon, clean, renewable energy, and a healthy economy. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is currently weighing proposals to change the way it distributes power from federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. Current and future allocations of federal power from these dams have profound impacts on salmon and salmon dependent communities. Under the status quo, BPA and other federal agencies have largely failed to meet their legal salmon recovery responsibilities, among which is the removal of the hundreds of NATIVE GILL NETS in the river. I urge the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to ensure that any plans to change its power supply role include measures to improve the conditions facing wild salmon and increase investments in clean, renewable energy.

BPA's process to consider its role in the region is an opportunity to guarantee stability for wild salmon restoration. However, a proposal forwarded by regional utilities falls short of providing this certainty. Instead, the utility proposal underestimates the relationship between hydropower generation and salmon protection; increases pressure on the Columbia and Snake rivers to produce power; and at best, maintains our current level of salmon restoration effort that has yet to produce self-sustaining, harvestable populations of wild salmon.

Rather than increasing the burden on our already struggling salmon and salmon dependent communities, any changes to BPA's power supply structure must be an improvement over the status quo. I support principles put forward by a coalition of commercial and sport fishing businesses, conservation organizations, and clean energy advocates to improve the Northwest's energy structure to benefit salmon, salmon communities and Northwest ratepayers. The proposal states that any power supply plan must include explicit and stringent salmon requirements with clear accountability mechanisms. I support the removal of the hundreds of GILLNETS as used by the native americans. At the time that the treaties were signed they used only dip nets. They have interpreted the use of of Gill nets as their rights under the treaties

signed at the time.

To those who wish to remove the damns on the snake river, I ask do you think of the wheat that is carried down the river by barge as you place the loaf of bread in your grocery basket.

Additionally, any allocation plan must maintain and increase BPA's commitment to the development of clean, renewable energy and cost-effective energy efficiency. Federal law specifically states that BPA should consider conservation and renewables its top priority when trying to meet new power demands. Therefore, we must maintain and increase these investments.

We need your leadership to strike a balance between the river transportation of FOOD stuffs and the restoration of the natural salmon runs, but first lets remove the hundreds of NYLON GILL NETS in the river. THE native americans claim that is their right under the treaty. Let them fish with the dip nets and made with natural materials. The Columbia is completely covered with gill nets except the barge channel. It is a wonder that any fish can make it up river. As BPA considers its role in our region, I urge you to ensure that it promotes a Northwest future that includes abundant wild salmon, clean energy and a strong economy.

Thank you, Francis (Don) Pintler

Sincerely,

Francis Pintler
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Moxee, Washington 98936