

[RD-0038](#)

**From:** Peter Rimbos

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2002 8:38 AM

**Subject:** TWENTY-YEAR PLANNING

Steve Wright  
BPA Administrator  
BPA Comment  
P.O. Box 12999  
Portland, OR 97208

Mr. Wright,

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) should make a strong commitment to renewable energy, conservation, and saving wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake rivers in its planning for the next 20 years. The quality of our shared environment, the progress of clean energy, and the rates we pay for electricity are also at stake as BPA negotiates new contracts with utilities that will determine how we handle salmon restoration and investing in renewable energy, and energy conservation.

We request the BPA implement the Public Interest Proposal developed by many diverse interest groups. This proposal will ensure that we have clean, affordable and reliable electricity, protect ratepayers and wild salmon, and help bring back our economy. The objective of this proposal is to develop all cost-effective conservation and sufficient renewable resources necessary to ensure an adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power system for the region without relying on polluting new fossil fuel plants. 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.

Increases in energy demand can and should be met with cost-effective energy efficiency and new, renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass resources. BPA customers (the utilities) should meet conservation goals set by the Northwest Power Planning Council. BPA would provide quality control to ensure the program is run efficiently and ultimately be the backstop in case a utility does not meet its conservation goal. BPA should directly fund state and county community action agencies to weatherize all remaining unweatherized low-income homes over the next 20 years.

Further, BPA must meet its legal obligations for salmon recovery. Any new contracts between the utilities and Bonneville must remove the economic and operational incentives to violate salmon restoration requirements. The Northwest energy portfolio should be diversified with an increase in renewable resources to decrease the pressure on the Columbia and Snake Rivers to produce electricity. Salmon restoration aspects of the new allocation agreement must also be enforceable. Native American tribes must have an equal voice with the federal government in decisions regarding salmon recovery and management.

Please carefully consider our comments and recommendations. We request they become part of the public comment record. Thank you!

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