

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 29, 2005

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Stephen J. Wright  
Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

**ASSIGN: DR-7C**  
**cc: FO3, DC/Wash, L-7, P-6, R-3,**  
**David Byrnes-DR/Boise**

Dear Steve:

It has come to our attention that you have decided to postpone the scheduled vote on whether the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will proceed with the next stage in the Grid West development process.

We are concerned that delaying the decision and entering into convergence discussions will undo all the progress that has been made so far. Further, it seems extremely doubtful that convergence talks can succeed when the two largest private holders of transmission capacity are not participating and have said they oppose convergence.

It is essential that the region move forward now with meaningful enhancements to the transmission system. The grid has become more congested and inefficient, while the demand for power continues to grow. Without significant improvements, it will be increasingly difficult for BPA and the region's other utilities to continue providing our constituents with reliable and low-cost electric service. Inaction and relying on the status quo is not an acceptable alternative.

We commend BPA and the other utilities, as well as the region's non-utility stakeholders who helped develop the Grid West proposal, for moving away from the FERC-oriented approach of RTO West to an entity accountable to the region and designed to meet our specific needs. We believe that the Grid West proposal is carefully crafted, well balanced and worthy of further development. Although we are aware that a competing proposal has emerged, we believe the Grid West approach offers the best prospect for making a number of critically needed improvements, including:

- Adding much-needed new transmission capacity,
- Enhancing the efficiency of the grid to enable greater use of existing transmission,
- Reducing the cost of transmitting power across the region, and
- Establishing an independent entity to ensure that transmission is provided in a non-discriminatory manner.

The region's utilities and non-utility partners are embarking on an ambitious effort to meet a growing demand for electricity. That effort includes the addition of new clean coal and renewable energy facilities, which often are located some distance from population centers. If these improvements to the grid are not made, we will be forced to rely on new natural gas-fired generation – which will both raise power rates and potentially endanger reliability.

For all of these reasons, we urge BPA to proceed with the next phase of the Grid West development process without further delay.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

G. D. Smith

Jim Matthem

Chadman

Mike Sijm

Barbara Cullen

Bob [unclear]