

Sept. 7, 2005

**Citizen's Comment:**

I am writing to urge BPA to select the TIG alternative to the GridWest proposal. To do so would show that BPA is committed to protecting consumer interests rather those of energy brokers and others who operate to maximize corporate profits at the expense of the general public. FERC in its zeal to impose electric power deregulation on the American consumer has facilitated an enormous wealth transfer from average citizens to these modern day robber barons. BPA should not join FERC in continuing this sorry process.

BPA was formed to protect the public interest in development and operation of Columbia River hydro facilities and should not abandon that role by turning over transmission assets paid for largely by public power ratepayers to private interests who have demonstrated little regard for the public interest.

Another reason for rejecting the GridWest alternative is that, based on the experience of other RTOs the cost estimates for GridWest facilities and operations are surely far too low and the benefit estimates surely are too high. My old company, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, has made no savings in monitoring and control facilities or operating personnel since they have to maintain duplicate monitoring and control capability. My friends at PG&E tell me that the company has had to maintain planning and operations staffing levels to deal with the California ISO whose interests do not match the interests of PG&E or its ratepayers. The salary structures and staffing of the RTOs are also inflated as compared to both private and public utilities which leads to significant and unjustified costs to utility ratepayers.

While the goal of one utility operation of the Northwest Grid undoubtedly has many merits, that goal can be reached with the TIG proposal without abandoning BPA's past commitment to Northwest ratepayers, particularly those served by publicly owned utilities.

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