



VIA E-Mail

September 9, 2005

Stephen J. Wright
Administrator & Chief Executive Officer
Bonneville Power Administration
P. O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208 – 3621
www.bpa.gov/comment

Re: GridWest / TIG Decision Point 2

Dear Steve:

The Springfield Utility Board (SUB) strongly urges the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to support the Transmission Improvements Group approach, and not to support the GridWest Decision Point 2. SUB supports the position taken by the Public Power Council and the various comments they have submitted on this topic.

SUB's views are summarized below:

1. The GridWest governance structure as proposed is unacceptable. We believe this approach will lead to a severe lack of control and accountability for transmission services needed to provide low cost and reliable service to our customers.
2. The GridWest governance structure establishes an independent Board that will not be answerable to the public including people and businesses in Springfield, Oregon.
3. The GridWest approach over the long term will be cost prohibitive compared to the incremental approach as proposed by the Transmission Improvements Group.
4. The Transmission Improvements Group proposal will better meet the needs of SUB customers through:
 - ◆ a reliable regional transmission system,
 - ◆ a durable decision-making structure that is accountable to consumers and businesses who rely on the electricity system,
 - ◆ non-expansion of FERC involvement in Northwest policy decisions,

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- ◆ enforceable protection of preference customers' existing transmission rights and their ability to exercise those rights,
- ◆ continued access to affordable, new transmission rights needed to bring generation to public utility loads and cost control and cost stability.

5. The Transmission Improvements Group sufficiently addresses the following important areas:

- ◆ Reliability and Security
- ◆ Planning and Expansion
- ◆ Common Northwest OASIS
- ◆ Flow-Based Available Transmission Capacity Determinations
- ◆ Market Monitoring

SUB views this as a critical decision point for BPA, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. We also appreciate the time, effort and the process BPA has followed to gather input from public power customers and the region regarding this important decision.

Sincerely,

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

Robert C. Linahan
General Manager