



October 3, 2025

Via Email

John Hairston, Administrator and CEO
Bonneville Power Administration
Email: jlhairston@bpa.gov

RE: Northwest Power Act and Post-FY2028 Residential Exchange Program Benefits

Dear Administrator Hairston:

As leaders of investor-owned utilities that provide electricity to more than 4.5 million customers throughout the Pacific Northwest, we are writing to ask the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to engage directly and productively to ensure all electricity customers and communities in our region continue to fairly realize the benefits of the federally owned and operated hydropower system.

The federally owned hydro system was created for the benefit of all Pacific Northwest citizens and to broadly support healthy and safe communities. Economic development, living wage jobs and housing are the backbone of communities whether served by public or investor-owned utilities. We value our longstanding relationship with BPA and recognize the work we do together every day to provide this critical service to the region.

We are growing concerned, however, that a course is being charted that would upend our shared goals for the Pacific Northwest, at a time that could result in missed opportunities to collectively address dynamic issues impacting everyone in our communities. The region is facing unique challenges. Broader economic pressures continue to materialize in job loss and state budget impacts. Changes to federal policy require reassessing priorities and funding sources. And geopolitical climates continue to have impacts on supply chains, consumer confidence and trade.

For utilities, whether public power or investor-owned, we are operating in an extreme weather environment, with demand increasing, reliability concerns and broader affordability challenges. These are generational issues that can only be addressed through partnership, not partisanship. The region has been here before. During a past era, regional leaders leaned into collective solutions, which resulted in the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (“Northwest Power Act”), which ensured that all Pacific Northwest communities, not just those where a consumer-owned utility was formed, receive fair access and benefits from the federally owned hydropower system,

Implementing the Residential Exchange Program has not been without its challenges, but the region came together in common cause to agree to the 2012 settlement that resolved long-standing litigation and provided stability until the contracts expire in 2028. Now, we are facing significant rate increases beginning in 2028 for nearly 4 million residential and small farm customers. That increase would impact more than half of all residential electricity customers in the Pacific Northwest and would come on top of customer rate pressures driven by, among other things; significant growth across our communities, compliance with state-required emission reductions, anticipated electrification of the building and transportation sectors, and hardening our systems against wildfire and other threats.

The prospect of these disparities in customer impacts raises concern about whether the purposes of the Northwest Power Act can be achieved on a long-term basis. Of specific concern is how hydro system benefits are distributed through the Residential Exchange Program, which has delivered more than \$10 billion in savings for our Pacific Northwest customers since 1980, with \$4 billion of those savings coming since 2012.

We are asking that BPA exercise its leadership in the region and engage with both investor-owned and consumer-owned utilities on these concerns in a way that upholds the requirements of the Northwest Power Act. We believe that settlement discussions, with BPA’s leadership and engagement, is the best way to ensure a fair outcome for the entire region and is preferable to alternative paths that would include litigation and/or revisiting the Northwest Power Act. As the BPA Administrator, we hope that you share our vision for the best way forward and will work with us on behalf of all the customers and communities we serve.

Very truly yours,



Heather Rosentrater
President and CEO
Avista Corporation



Lisa Grow
President and CEO
Idaho Power Company

Administrator Hairston

September 25, 2025

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Brian Bird
President and CEO
NorthWestern Corporation



Ryan Flynn
President
Pacific Power



Maria Pope
President and CEO
Portland General Electric Company



Mary Kipp
President and CEO
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.

cc: Paulina Cornejo, Residential Exchange Program Lead (ypcornejo@bpa.gov)
Michael Edwards, Residential Exchange Program Analyst (mmedwards@bpa.gov)