



Alliance of Western Energy Consumers ♦ 201 Ferry St. SE, Ste. 200 ♦ Salem, OR 97301 ♦ 971-544-7169 ♦ awec.solutions

April 30, 2026

Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232

Submitted via TechForum

Re: Alliance of Western Energy Consumers’ Comments regarding the Grid Access Transformation Future State

The Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (“AWEC”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Bonneville Power Administration’s (“BPA”) April 15, 2026 Grid Access Transformation (“GAT”) work session regarding BPA’s proactive planning and accelerated expansion initiatives going into the future state of BPA’s transmission reform efforts.

AWEC is a trade organization whose members include many of the Region’s largest employers and consumers of electricity and natural gas. AWEC’s members are responsible for providing tens of thousands of highly paid, technical, family-wage jobs across a broad range of industry sectors such as agriculture, aeronautics, air products, metals, pulp and paper, and more. As such, AWEC’s members are also significant consumers of electricity, paying millions of dollars for power and transmission services each year. They take service from both public power customers of BPA as well as regulated investor-owned utilities who purchase transmission services from BPA. AWEC members’ host utilities take both Network Integration Transmission Service (“NITS”) and Point to Point (“PTP”) service products from BPA Transmission. Given the energy-intensive nature of many industrial processes, AWEC members are focused on both costs associated with electricity service, including transmission, and reliability.

AWEC appreciates BPA’s effort to comprehensively address the transmission queue, informed by stakeholder perspective and feedback, and BPA’s dedication to modernizing transmission planning and expansion to align with rapid changes facing the region. AWEC also appreciates BPA’s hard work developing potential pathways forward for stakeholder consideration. At this early stage, AWEC is encouraged to hear that BPA is reviewing and developing new product options that will be subject to future customer engagement, in particular, new product options where generation and load are sited together. AWEC supports policies that promote efficient use of the transmission system. New product options that enable more co-location and behind-the-meter resources will facilitate that efficient use of the transmission system by limiting the need for the grid to transmit power long distances. End use consumers, including AWEC members, are interested in these options, and the time is ripe for BPA to



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consider these issues. AWEC looks forward to collaborating with BPA on these options into the future.

/s/ Bill Gaines
Executive Director
Alliance of Western Energy Consumers