

BPA Hiring Issues and Chairman Wyden's Statement October 11, 2013

Today, Public Power Council Executive Director, Scott Corwin, made the following comments:

We commend Chairman Wyden on his statement yesterday and his focus on this key issue for Northwest electricity ratepayers. The Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee noted the need to resolve the BPA hiring practices issues quickly for the sake of all involved, and he said that it is "important to make sure that this serious incident is not used as a lever to interfere with BPA policy decisions that should continue to be made in the Northwest, not in Washington, D.C." (*Link to the article is below*)

While PPC recognizes the Department of Energy can take steps to ensure administrative functions at BPA comply with the law, this should not be misinterpreted as an open door to assert DOE control over BPA policies that are governed by laws set by Congress.

PPC is calling for a transparent approach to correcting the hiring issues, including identifying up-front the scope of needed actions, the specific steps to be taken, and the legal basis for those steps. This will help current and future employees gain confidence in the system, and will aid utilities and their customers in better understanding the significant potential costs and operational impacts.

A well-functioning BPA is critical to the Northwest and to the millions of electricity consumers who trust in the reliability of this system based on clean hydropower. During this time of many challenges to our industry, our region needs certainty and a clear path forward for BPA.

Following is a portion of the Oregonian article from yesterday:

Wyden said he stressed to Poneman that it was important to fix BPA's problems quickly so employees can focus on their mission, and to ensure veterans get a fair shake when they apply for jobs at the agency.

"It is also important to make sure that this serious incident is not used as a lever to interfere with BPA policy decisions that should continue to be made in the Northwest, not in Washington D.C.," Wyden said. "I also made clear that it is absolutely imperative that the Northwest delegation be consulted about the DOE's plans to resolve outstanding problems regarding BPA senior management."

Wyden said Poneman's reaction was positive.

The full article can be found at

http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2013/10/bpa_mainzer_tells_employees_he.html