



Public Power Council

825 NE Multnomah, Suite 1225
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 595 - 9770
www.ppcpdx.org

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Contact:

Scott Corwin
Public Power Council
503-807-3875

PPC on FERC Order Rejecting Portions of ColumbiaGrid Filing

PORTLAND, Ore. – Today, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an Order on Compliance Filings and Petition for Declaratory Order addressing revisions submitted by some members of ColumbiaGrid, including the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), to their transmission planning processes to comply with FERC Order No. 1000. The Public Power Council (PPC), who represents power customers of the Bonneville Power Administration, will continue to analyze the order, but has the following initial reactions:

“While FERC continues to talk about regional deference, this order runs counter to that principle, and counter to the interests of ratepayers in the Northwest,” said Scott Corwin, Executive Director of PPC. “We have a strong concern that FERC is trying to force non-jurisdictional utilities into its preferred approach to planning and allocation of the costs of transmission, and away from a construct that has worked very well in the Northwest.”

Notable is the dissent by Commissioner Clark, who points out that, “By rejecting key elements of this filing, I am concerned that we may do more harm than good in this region.”

In addition, Corwin said, “PPC appreciates the statement released by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Ron Wyden. The Chairman called the FERC order a ‘major step backward,’ and he took note of the threat it poses to Northwest ratepayers.”

PPC represents Pacific Northwest consumer-owned utilities on issues related to the Federal Columbia River Power System.