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### **Public Power Council Statement on BPA Rate Increase for FY 2016-2017**

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Public Power Council expressed concern over the impact to its member utilities of an average 7.1% power rate increase and 4.4% transmission rate increase announced by the Bonneville Power Administration today. The new wholesale rates charged to utilities will go into effect on October 1, 2015, and each individual utility addresses how it handles the effect of this increase.

“This is a significant increase in wholesale power rates on top of large increases in the prior three rate periods,” said PPC Executive Director, Scott Corwin. “Seeing this increase in costs every other year is a notable hit to utilities and the consumers they serve in the region.”

“We know that BPA leadership and staff worked very hard with us and other customer representatives over the past year to contain the size of the increase; we saw some real progress in certain areas,” said Corwin. “We look forward to rolling up our sleeves in the coming months to work with BPA in the coming processes around their budgets and programs.”

“In light of the recent rate trajectory, addressing the competitiveness of the agency’s power and transmission rates in the near and long term will be crucial for the stability of BPA and the economic well-being of the region,” Corwin said.

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