

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Public Power Council acknowledges today's letter from Oregon Governor Brown concerning the long-term future of the federal projects on the Lower Snake River. Because of the complexity of impacts, and the variety of stakeholder interests, PPC is eagerly anticipating the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Columbia River System Operation (CRSO) process before evaluating specific alternatives.

It is particularly unfortunate timing that Oregon took a position for breaching federal multipurpose projects just ahead of the release of the draft CRSO EIS. All parties are free to weigh in, but the future of any federal project is squarely a federal decision.

The CRSO EIS process is the appropriate venue for consideration of the operation of the federal hydropower system and how to balance its benefits and impacts for the entire Pacific Northwest. With the release of the draft EIS just days away, Oregon's position may hinder the potential for collaboration among the diverse stakeholders in the region.

Breaching of the Lower Snake River projects would have broad economic consequences for the region, including the 25 percent of Oregon ratepayers served by non-profit, public utilities that rely on the Bonneville Power Administration for reliable, economic, and low-carbon power. Moreover, Oregon's position substantially undermines the state's own environmental goals. We appreciate the acknowledgment of the key role of hydropower in our region. The federal hydro system, including the Lower Snake River projects, represents the nation's largest source of flexible, reliable, and carbon-free electricity. Degradation of the hydro system exacerbates the challenges of climate change rather than moving towards solutions.

The parties that decide to abandon the search for collaborative solutions should not continue to reap the benefits of that collaboration, including the fish and wildlife mitigation funding those parties receive from Bonneville's ratepayers.

It is our sincere hope that all parties realize the benefits of continued cooperation rather than division.

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About the Public Power Council

The Public Power Council, established in 1966, is an association that represents over 100 consumer-owned electric utilities in the Pacific Northwest. PPC's mission is to preserve and protect the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System for consumer-owned utilities. PPC is a key forum to identify, discuss and build consensus around energy and utility issues.

A listing of PPC members categorized by state is attached. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.ppcpdx.org.