



Columbia REA

August 14, 2013

Stephen R. Oliver
Bonneville Power Administration

David Ponganis
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers


U.S. Entity
Columbia River Treaty
P.O. Box 3621
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Columbia Rural Electric Association is an interested party in the Columbia River Treaty. We represent some of the 6.4 million Pacific Northwest customers who depend upon power produced by the Federal Columbia River Power System.

As an electric cooperative serving our members in Columbia and Walla Walla Counties in Washington and Umatilla County in Oregon it is important that we advocate for them. They have depended on us for almost 75 years to provide low-cost reliable power to water their crops, light their businesses and keep their homes warm in the winter.

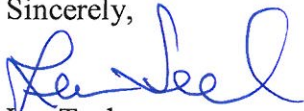
We are extremely disappointed in the June 27th working draft of a regional recommendation concerning the future of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada. The working draft is seriously flawed and it should not serve as the basis for a final recommendation to the Department of State.

We support the principals for the treaty outlined by the Columbia River Power Group. First, the Canadian Entitlement payment made to Canada for downstream power benefits should not exceed one-half of the power benefits achieved through a coordinated United States/Canada operation as compared to a non-coordinated operation. Second, any payments for Columbia River flood control should be the responsibility of the taxpayers of the United States. This is consistent with the flood control funding approach employed throughout the United States. Third, an equitable correction to the Canadian Entitlement should not lead to an increased ecosystem mitigation requirement. The draft recommendation fails to recognize the substantial investments in ecosystem functions this region has already made for decades outside the Treaty. Regional electric customers have invested billions in fish protection efforts, and each of the entities providing the Canadian Entitlement already have robust environmental mitigation plans embedded in their project authorizations. Along with the cost of the Entitlement return, this mitigation is funded by utilities and their customers.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to a final recommendation for the State Department that represents all of our region's interest in the Columbia River Treaty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Les Teel", with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Les Teel
CEO