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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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March 5, 2013

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

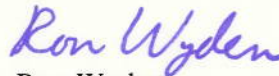
I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential adverse impact of Order No. 1000 on the Northwest region.

As you know, the majority of the Northwest power system is composed of utilities that generally are not subject to FERC jurisdiction and that are the creation of, and subject to, state or federal statutes. This makes the Order No. 1000 process akin to trying to hammer a square peg into a round hole for the Bonneville Power Administration and other governmental utilities. For example, ColumbiaGrid, acting on behalf of Bonneville and other non-jurisdictional utilities, has proposed to develop approaches to cost allocation through the Order No. 1000 process but emphasizes that any allocation of costs it develops will be a recommendation only and not binding on any member utility. The reason for this is that Bonneville and other non-jurisdictional utilities that belong to ColumbiaGrid believe that it would be both unwise and unlawful for them to cede their authority over transmission cost allocation to FERC. I strongly agree.

The Commission, in particular Commissioner Moeller, has repeatedly stated support for "regional flexibility" regarding Order No. 1000 compliance. Now is the time for the Commission to show that it is truly committed to that principle. The Northwest electric power industry, acting through ColumbiaGrid and the Northern Tier Transmission Group, has made a good faith effort to respond to Order No. 1000 in a constructive manner that preserves the ability of the region to continue to chart its own electric power destiny. I strongly urge the Commission to respond in kind.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
Chairman

cc: Commissioner Moeller  
Commissioner Norris  
Commissioner LaFleur  
Commissioner Clark