

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Dear Mr. Walker,

According to the Council's recent study, "A Retrospective Look at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Conservation Planning Assumptions," the region is acquiring conservation resources at a much faster pace than the Plan expected. That's the good news. I worked on the Council conservation staff from 1983-1989. What a great place. Great people. Still going strong.

Apparently, and still not surprisingly, these gains are being made with little assistance from the Bonneville Power Administration, which has not raised its conservation budget to match the market interest further. If others can increase their pace of acquiring efficiency, Bonneville can too. Together we should be able to get 30-40% more cost-effective energy efficiency by 2023 than expected.

New Buildings Institute (www.newbuildings.org), where I work, is driving toward that goal more quickly with the soon to be released Advanced Buildings Core Performance program, a utility new commercial construction program for the 95% of the commercial building stock that are 50,000 sq.ft and under, representing about 1/2 of the commercial building floorspace. The program will produce energy use reductions from 15-30% better than the range of current state energy building codes in the 4-state PNW region. We've been in discussions with Bonneville staff since last year about Advanced Buildings. We hope that they will value a regionwide program approach that will reach the small to medium buildings market that the utilities say they are underserving. The program includes a monitoring and verification component requiring meter data collection, analysis and reporting. NBI is also part of a national coalition including ASHRAE, AIA, IESNA, USGBC and private sector partners including Wal-Mart, that is pushing forward to the next efficiency step of a 50% reduction in commercial building energy use on the way to the 2030 Challenge for zero energy commercial buildings. We are looking at significant reductions in new construction as well as in existing building energy use.

It is critical that we continue at or beyond the present pace and that Bonneville do its part. Unless the Council increases the 5th Plan's conservation target to reflect the real situation, BPA and other utilities might easily forego opportunities to save their customers money by acquiring all available, cost-effective conservation resources. How can anyone defend increasing the number of 'lost opportunities' for efficiency resource acquisition as good public energy and environmental-climate change policy? I urge the Council to revise the 5th Plan to increase the total 20-year "achievable" conservation target by at least 30 percent and to revise the interim targets accordingly.

Sincerely

Mark Cherniack