Dear Mr. Walker:

I want to thank the NW Power & Conservation Council and Bonneville Power Administration, and Dr. Tom Karier in particular, for addressing and proposing to develop the “Columbia Basin Data Center,” a cornerstone element in the exchange network solution for managing environmental and natural resource data in the Pacific Northwest. The proposed data center will meet the Council’s 2000 commitment to establish “an internet-based system for the efficient dissemination of data for the Columbia Basin” and provide efficient access to decades of data in the basin.

I encourage the Council and BPA to carry the vision of the Columbia Basin Data Center forward within the conceptual framework of an integrated network of computers in the Pacific Northwest that is capable of and empowered to exchange data in automated, computer-to-computer
relationships founded upon eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema and
technology. Clearly there a number of institutional participants in
environmental and natural resources management and monitoring which have
large, complex data management systems in the Pacific Northwest. The
technology exists today to connect these different nodes into a
functional network.

To this end the proposal should expand the concept of the “Data
Standards responsibility” of the Data Center to include metadata
standards, data format standards and data update and exchange standards
as well as standardized protocols for the collection, reporting and
quality of data.

Sincerely yours,

H. Burney Hill, Manager,

Environmental Information Unit