

APPENDIX K

RENEWABLE RESOURCE CONFIRMATION AGENDA

The renewable resource confirmation agenda is a set of coordinated research, development and demonstration activities intended to foster the efficient development of geothermal, solar and wind resources. The activities include resource assessment, conflict resolution and renewable demonstration and pilot projects.

Many of the confirmation agenda actions have been initiated, though few have been completed. Most progress has been made on long-term wind and solar resource assessment, geothermal and wind pilot and demonstration projects and niche applications of solar photovoltaics. Less progress has been made on actions intended to secure improved resource information at promising resource areas, with the exception of environmental assessment at sites being permitted for project development. The status of the confirmation agenda is summarized in Table K-1. A complete description of the confirmation agenda is provided in Chapter 1 of Volume II of the 1991 Power Plan.

In general, the Council has avoided advocating new policies in this draft plan, pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System. However, the Council believes that it is desirable to reaffirm important activities of the Confirmation Agenda that are currently underway. The Council's recommendations, based on the findings and conclusions described in Chapter 6 of this plan, are shown in Table K-1.

The number of geothermal and wind projects currently planned for the Northwest exceed these recommendations. With respect to generating projects, the recommendations of Table K-1 are generally consistent with achieving the original research and demonstration objectives of the confirmation agenda. They are not intended to discourage cost-effective projects, or additional projects undertaken to support demand for "green" power or to achieve research and development objectives in addition to those of the confirmation agenda or projects developed primarily for non-power objectives.

Table K-1

Status and Recommendations Regarding the Renewable Resources Confirmation Agenda of the
1991 Power Plan

Activity	Status	Recommendations
<i>Geothermal Activities</i>		
Compile and circulate data on geothermal plant operating experience	To be terminated.	Document demonstration project development and operating experience.
Document the pre-development environmental characteristics of geothermal resource areas.	Accomplished in conjunction with development of the demonstration projects.	Complete for any area being permitted for development.
Facilitate resolution of environmental conflicts at geothermal resource areas	Accomplished in conjunction with development of the demonstration projects.	Complete for any area being permitted for development.
Demonstrate the feasibility of electric power generation using Northwest geothermal resources.	Agreements have been negotiated for projects at Newberry Volcano, Oregon and Glass Mountain, California.	Complete demonstration projects at Newberry and Glass Mountain and document project development and operational experience.

<i>Solar Activities</i>		
Assemble improved Northwest solar insolation data	A Northwest Regional Solar Radiation Data Monitoring Project has been established.	Continue.
Collect information on solar-electric technology and applications	Ad-hoc efforts undertaken by various organizations.	Continue as Council responsibility.
Identify promising applications of photovoltaic technologies in the Northwest.	Accomplished by several utilities and others in conjunction with development of niche and demonstration projects.	Continue in conjunction with development of cost-effective photovoltaic applications.
Resolve constraints to promising photovoltaic applications	Accomplished by several utilities and others in conjunction with development of niche and demonstration projects.	Consolidate with the previous activity.
Develop cost-effective photovoltaic applications.	Several utilities and others have implemented cost-effective small-scale PV applications.	Broaden to all parts of the region.
Begin a phased process that could lead to a regional solar central-station photovoltaic demonstration facility	Not initiated.	Delete.

<i>Wind Activities</i>		
Monitor long-term (interannual) variation in regional wind resources	Bonneville fund a network of five long-term wind resource monitoring stations.	Continue.
Provide information on wind power technology and wind resource development.	The OSU Wind Research Cooperative has provided analyses of specific windpower meteorological issues.	Document development and operating experience at Northwest wind power projects.
Identify wind resource areas having the greatest promise for development.	The Wind Research Cooperative has identified Northwest wind resource areas thought to have the greatest potential for commercial development.	Completed.
Obtain better information about the quantity and quality of wind resources at resource areas showing the greatest promise for development.	Additional proprietary data has been collected by prospective developers at some Northwest sites proposed for development.	Improve wind resource data, where deficient, at most promising wind resource areas.
Resolve major technical, environmental and institutional uncertainties at important wind resource areas.	Being accomplished for sites where permits are being sought for development.	Complete for any area being permitted for development.
Demonstrate wind turbines capable of reliable year-round operation in the environment of the Rocky Mountain Front	The Foote Creek Rim pilot project experiences a winter climate typical of the Rocky Mountain front.	Complete a cold climate demonstration project.
Demonstrate a state-of-the-art commercial-scale wind farm	Most agreements have been executed for four projects at three wind resource areas.	Complete a commercial-scale demonstration project at an Oregon or Washington site and document project development and operational experience.

