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From:  
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:29 AM  
To: Baugh, Zenobia  
Subject: Comment on document 2006-7

NOTICE: THIS LETTER TO FOLLOW IN THE MAIL

June 14, 2006  
Reply To  
Attn Of: EMI-095

Mark Walker

Director of Public Affairs

Northwest Power & Conservation Council

851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100

Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Re: EPA comments on proposal paper "Columbia Basin Data Center"

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