

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Kennecott Energy comments on 5 year plan

The availability of energy is one of the most fundamental contributors to economic development and quality of life. Energy demand has and will continue to increase and finding and providing reliable, affordable and available energy is critically important. Even more important is to produce clean energy that will continue to provide sustainable advancements in the future. Kennecott Energy supports the NPCC's efforts in the 5 year plan and would like to submit comments on the plan as it pertains to the future use of coal.

Kennecott Energy operates 4 coal mines in Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. These mines produce approximately 6% of the nations coal used for electricity generation. As a fuel provider, Kennecott Energy is committed in helping our customers be environmentally responsible. We hold an impressive environmental record, which includes a ten-year history of helping generating companies in the US dramatically reduce emissions from coal-fired plants while at the same time increasing production. Sustainable development is one of our highest priorities. The properties we mine are reclaimed the mined land to a state that is the same or better than before mining. We also actively support legislation and regulation at the national level that would substantially reduce emissions from current levels while giving the industry time to develop needed technology.

In addition to environmental responsibility, KEC also believes in the importance of economic growth. Coal plays a critical role in balancing economic growth with environmental protection. Coal provides the US with electricity that is increasingly friendly to the environment and is mined in ways that assures a sustainable future. Today, energy derived from coal plays a pivotal role in meeting the country's energy needs and is responsible for nearly 51 percent of current US energy generation.

It is because of this demand for energy and the role that coal plays now and well in to the future that Kennecott believes more attention needs to be focused on coal in the NPCC's 5 year plan.

The first recommendation in the plan for the next five years states, "Develop resources that can reduce cost and risk to the region." Coal is available now and there is no lower cost and more reliable fuel source than coal. We applaud the NPCC's forward thinking when it comes to coal gasification and Kennecott Energy is involved in a number of initiatives that would help make coal gasification an economic reality. However, until then coal fired power plants will continue to play a major role in providing the nation with the necessary energy we have become accustomed too, and we feel that it can aid the NPCC in meeting its stated goals in the 5 year plan. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment.