



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON

November 16, 2004

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Mark Walker  
Director of Public Affairs  
Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
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To: Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
Re: Fifth Power and Conservation Plan

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is very pleased to support the Council's recommendation that "the region should increase its efforts to secure cost-effective conservation, beginning immediately." The Council's plan to acquire half of total new resources needed in twenty years through energy efficiency is another welcome recommendation.

Though the League also supports your goal to produce a reliable regional power supply with the lowest cost and least risk, we are bewildered that the Council endorses a plan to include a coal plant in the energy mix. Your own sophisticated cost vs. risk assessment supports a plan that substitutes new wind for market purchases, but the plan you endorse including coal and gas is less cost-effective.

In addition to the cost factor, the League believes that in any decision to build a power plant, the most important consideration is environmental quality. When coal and wind cost roughly the same, the clean fuel choice must be paramount. The State of Oregon has not even begun the downward trend to meet the benchmark of lowering CO2 emissions to 1990 levels. Furthermore, Oregon is poised to join Washington and California to put in place mechanisms to ensure an important reduction of fossil fuel emissions. To choose energy from coal and gas runs squarely against environmental efforts to mitigate the climate change northwest scientists agree is already in progress.

The Northwest cannot turn back to business as usual but must wholeheartedly embrace new, clean energy resources along with aggressive conservation and efficiency measures. Our citizens and ratepayers, our economy, and our quality of life demand that we do so.

Margaret Noel  
President

Cc: NW Energy Coalition  
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