

Schrepel, Eric

From: Jenkins, Kris
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2004 3:12 PM
To: Lapworth, Heather
Subject: FW: NPCC 5th Plan Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2004 3:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Jenkins, Kris
Subject: NPCC 5th Plan Comments

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
([REDACTED]) on Thursday, November 18, 2004 at 15:10:46

fname: Jeremy

lname: Smithson

affiliation: Solar Washington Association

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comments:

Dear Northwest Power and Conservation Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Fifth Plan. I am encouraged that increased efficiency and wind power are major components of this plan. I attended a hearing in Seattle and the comments from those present seemed to fall into two categories; ALCOA workers pleading for low rates and the rest of us asking for increased renewables and efficiency. Nobody asked for new coal-fired generation. In fact, I can't imagine that anyone who submitted comments would have asked for new coal burning except for coal companies in Montana. How then is their proposal featured so prominently in the draft plan? While I am appreciative that there is a public process here, I also expect that process to be administered fairly and that no one voice should be artificially amplified above the others. We have already had that experience with WPPSS and do not intend to sit by idly for a reprise of this kind of railroad agenda.

I must also ask why is there no mention of increased solar generation? The potential for solar energy production, both thermal and electric, is evenly distributed (varying geographically by only a factor of 2 in the U.S.) and is ubiquitous. The fuel is FREE and requires no transportation. There are no emissions, no dead salmon, and no disenfranchised farmers involved. It is, in fact, the only unlimited energy source that we have and it WORKS. Europe, Japan, South Africa, and now China are pursuing this energy source at an incredible pace and have proven that it is not only feasible, but essential. Why, then, is this council all but ignoring it? In Germany, where there is 30% less sun than in Washington, solar thermal collection increased by 39% LAST YEAR, and this year solar photovoltaic capacity has been increased by 100%! What will it take to bring the Northwest Power and Conservation Council into the 21st Century? Coal is from the 19th

Century! Please, don't make
excuses; if you don't have a solar expert on your council, get one and get one now. Get
yourselves up to speed with this technology and include it in your plan because the future
health and welfare of this region depends on it.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Smithson

z.Submit: Submit
