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AMU

Atlantic Municipal Utilities

April 26, 2011

Mr. Robert J. Harris,
Regional Manager
Upper Great Plains Region
Western Area Power Administration
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101-1226

RE: Comments on the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program-Eastern Division-2021 Power Marketing Initiative Proposal (2021 PMI) as published in the *Federal Register* dated March 4, 2011.

Dear Mr. Harris:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Western Area Power Administration's 2021 PMI.

Atlantic Municipal Utilities (AMU), Atlantic, Iowa operates an electric utility which serves the power needs of its 7,257 residents, as well as its businesses, and an additional 700 meters in the rural areas near the community. AMU's power supply portfolio includes 17.25 megawatts of baseload coal, supplemented by our hydroelectric allocation from Western, and by a power purchase contract with Missouri River Energy Services, a joint-action agency located in Sioux Falls, SD. Western's firm power supply program is very important to our community, because it is both reliable and economical, as well as a renewable and environmentally-friendly source of electricity.

We have followed with great interest the development of the 2021 PMI, and generally support Western's proposals. The 30 year contract and defined (maximum 3%) resource pools being proposed as part of the Amended Marketing Plan Principles would provide more resource certainty to AMU and our customers.

The Extended Marketing Plan Principles related to retention of the existing marketing area, and determination of marketable resources, with adjustments for hydrology and river operations are also supported by our community.

Our community appreciates its longstanding relationship with the federal hydropower program, and the Western Area Power Administration. The program has helped our utility to provide affordable, cost-based electricity to all of our customers. We look forward to a long-term and successful relationship, as outlined in the 2021 PMI.

Respectfully,



Allen Bonderman
General Manager