

Big Flat Electric Co-op., Inc. Logged



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Serving Blaine, Phillips, & Valley Counties

March 17, 2008

Mr. Bob Harris
Regional Manager - Upper Great Plains Region
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

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Dear Mr. Harris:

I would like to echo the comments made by Central Montana G&T in regards to Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) proposal to consolidate the Desert Southwest Region, Rocky Mountain Region and the Upper Great Plains-West Region into one Balancing Authority. This was presented at the Customer Meetings held in Phoenix, Arizona on February 12, 2008 and Loveland, Colorado on February 14, 2008.

Big Flat Electric Cooperative is concerned that consolidating the Balancing Authority may have a negative cost affect on us simply to address the regulatory reporting staffing issue. Big Flat Electric Cooperative is a small rural cooperative that serves an area near 10,000 square miles with a density of 1.19 meters per mile of line. We also serve the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. Fort Belknap Indian Reservation has a very high unemployment rate and has extreme economic challenges.

In considering the limited projected savings WAPA would experience and the negative impact on our region, we request the Upper Great Plains -West be excluded from the proposed Balancing Authority consolidation.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Barnard, Manager
Big Flat Electric Co-op., Inc.

"Big Flat Electric is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Provider, and Lender"



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Regional Manager - Upper Great Plains Region
Western Area Power Administration
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Billings, MT 59107-5800

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Big Flat Electric 60-0P

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