

Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 66
Wheaton, Minnesota 56296

A Touchstone EnergySM Partner 
The power of human connections

Telephone 320-563-8616
Telephone 800-927-5443
FAX 320-563-4863

April 28, 2011

Mr. Robert Harris, Regional Manager

Upper Great Plains

Western Area Power Administration

2900 4th Ave. North

Billings, Mt. 59109

Dear Mr. Harris:

Please accept this letter as comments from Traverse Electric which is one of 21 distribution Co-ops that rely on East River Electric for its supply of federal hydropower. These comments are concerning the Western Area Power Administration's March 4, 2011 Federal Register Notice described as the Pick Sloan Missouri Basin Program Eastern Division 2010 Power Marketing Initiative Proposal.

I wish to concur with comments made by East River General Manager, Jeff Nelson, with regards to the Critical Resource that hydropower provides to our system. The availability and affordability that hydropower provides does much more than just keep the lights on, it is also the lifeblood for our economic development that we struggle to support in rural America.

Traverse Electric also shares the opinion that the Power Marketing Initiative 2021 Proposal represents a thoughtful and practical compromise for all of the Western customers and WAPA in terms of future management and the marketing of this resource. We also see value in extending this thirty year contract to a contract of forty years. We feel this extended period would offer greater stability of a renewable resource for all of Western's customers.

In summary, Traverse Electric supports the Proposal and we urge Western to move deliberately forward to finalize this process.

With best regards,



Clayton Halverson

General Manager