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APR 29 2011

Friday, April 29, 2011

Mr. Robert Harris, Regional Manager
Upper Great Plains
Western Area Power Administration
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59109

Dear Mr. Harris:

On behalf of Union County Electric Cooperative, Inc., I would like to comment on the 2021 Power Marketing Initiative Proposal.

Union County Electric is a small rural cooperative located in the southern most portion of southeastern of South Dakota. As a member of East River Electric Power Cooperative, we fully understand the tremendous importance of this most valuable resource and the affect that it has on our rural consumers. Efforts to provide a stable supply of hydropower for our region our greatly appreciated, and as such, we fully support Western's position on the 2021 Power Marketing Initiative.

During these changing times, stability is key to the success and livelihoods of our members and their cooperative. For this reason, I would like to see Western consider contract extensions for a 40 year term rather than a 30 year term. The additional ten years could loom large in the future power supply picture given the uncertainty that surrounds our nation's energy policy.

I would ask for your consideration of extending the contract terms as outlined above and certainly appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Morse
General Manager