



Wells Rural Electric Company

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March 31, 2023

John Hairston
Administrator and CEO

Suzanne Cooper
Senior Vice President of Power Services

Kim Thompson
Vice President of Northwest Requirements Marketing

Submitted via email to post2028@bpa.gov

RE: Wells Rural Electric comments in response to Bonneville Power Administration's ("BPA") March 21st and 22nd Provider of Choice Workshop.

Administrator Hairston, Ms. Cooper, and Ms. Thompson:

Wells Rural Electric (WREC) was incorporated in 1958 as a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative to provide electricity to consumers in the ranching valleys surrounding Wells, Nevada. WREC has since grown to serve 6,254 accounts held by 4,161 members spanning 10,552 square miles of service territory in Elko, Eureka and Lander Counties in Nevada and in Tooele County, Utah. WREC and BPA have always had a solid working relationship based on mutual respect and understanding. We have yet to fail to produce a contract that hasn't been advantageous to public power, WREC members and BPA.

WREC supports BPA maintaining a comparable irrigation rate discount (IRD). WREC has always passed this discount directly onto our irrigators as a billing credit. Each spring, we host an irrigator's workshop where we explain aspects of their bill, including their irrigation mitigation credit. We also discuss other topics such as irrigation technologies, energy efficiency rebates, current affairs and political pressures. As a result, this group of members tends to be the most engaged subsection of our membership. The discontinuation or reduction of the IRD would obviously be very detrimental to WREC irrigators who must remain competitive in a challenging interstate market.

As stated in our February 17, 2023 comments, WREC continues to support the NRU Proposal. We acknowledge that BPA has moved away from a few of the initial stances taken in the concept paper. However, we reiterate our request for BPA to recognize that the NRU proposal represents a negotiated consensus of 57 member utilities located in seven states who represent approximately 30% of BPA's preference load. The distance between the proposed post 2028 policy and those provided by public power alliances like NRU and PPC only represents

additional unwarranted cost and discomfort to those who we ultimately all remain accountable to, the rate payer.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss or clarify any of the information provided. Please feel free to contact WREC by sending email to tballard@wrec.coop or by calling 775-752-1523.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thad S. Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Thad S. Ballard
Director of Administration and Power Supply