



## Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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May 22, 2023

Suzanne Cooper  
Senior Vice President of Power Services

Kim Thompson  
Vice President of Northwest Requirements Marketing

Submitted via email to [post2028@bpa.gov](mailto:post2028@bpa.gov)

Dear Ms. Cooper and Ms. Thompson:

Big Bend Electric Cooperative (BBEC) is a load following customer, served directly and by transfer with AHWM load and is growing. We provide service to approximately 10,000 meters in rural eastern Washington. The following comments are in response to the Provider of Choice (PoC) policy development workshops held this spring.

First, we appreciate the number of workshops held in various locations. This allowed for robust discussions of the many critical topics with BPA's diverse customer set. It is important that all topics are thoroughly understood and discussed to ensure we maintain a reliable, cost-effective and regulatory compliant power contract into the future. A contract that continues to embrace the primary tenets of the Regional Dialogue process, but is also one that is responsive to the immense changes in our now fast paced industry.

BBEC has been working with PPC, NRU and the AHWM-Group throughout the entire PoC process. We understand there are varying points of view on the many complex topics BPA is charged with addressing in the upcoming PoC policy. This letter is to support those comments made by NRU and the AHWM-Group in their May 2023 comment letters; emphasizing the areas of Transfer service, Tier 2 optionality and integration of non-federal resources. The "NRU Proposal" has been the most comprehensive proposal to date and is still BBEC's preferred basis for the upcoming BPA ROD to be predicated on.

As a growing transfer customer, BBEC has strong interests in ensuring our farmers and rural residents continue to receive the clean and affordable power produced by the FBS. The IRD and LDD benefits are as important to our members as the policy decisions for non-federal resource integration and the treatment of transmission. While load growth is more of an issue for some, BBEC supports the growth of the BPA system to supplement the existing hydropower and nuclear resources BPA manages to prepare for load growth across the entire region served by BPA. There are many clean energy policy goals and mandates BBEC must comply with while continuing to provide affordable power and we look forward to working with BPA to achieve these ends.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yvette Armstrong", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Yvette Armstrong  
General Manager/CEO