

Northwest Public Power Association
Resolution 2010-09
Holistic Approach to Energy, Transmission and Environmental Policy

Background

The mission of consumer-owned electric utilities is to provide low-cost, reliable electricity, while being responsible environmental stewards. Consumer-owned utilities are directly accountable to the people they serve through locally elected or appointed officials. They are not-for-profit, so their rates are determined by their costs – which are in turn passed through to their customers. NWPPA members often take the initiative and engage in leadership roles in implementing “green” power programs and/or investing in low carbon energy sources, but only after first determining the costs and benefits of such programs to their customers and the future of their utility.

Many demands are placed on electric utilities and, therefore, consumer-owned utilities must recognize the relationship with and balance the challenges between providing low-cost, reliable electricity for their customers while meeting and achieving environmental mandates and goals. Consumer-owned utilities will continue to strive towards meeting these goals and objectives – thereby contributing to America’s economic well-being. Consumer-owned utilities must be able to continue to invest in a diverse, cost-effective and reliable power generation portfolio, while being responsive to clean energy and energy efficiency goals of their customers and communities.

NWPPA’s Position

- Policymakers should ensure that the pursuit of energy, transmission and environmental goals are considered holistically as much as possible, rather than in isolation, to maximize the quantifiable benefits and cost-effectiveness of the policy approaches to our customers. These goals should minimize redundant or competing policies and outcomes.
- The holistic approach to policy development should take into account, among other considerations: electric system reliability; energy costs; impacts to customers; conservation targets and achievements; technology-based and incentives-driven energy solutions; the uniqueness of each power system; and environmental stewardship.

Origination Date: 2009. Revised in 2010. Approved 5-25-2010 by NWPPA membership.