

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

2
3 **13-06 Archived Resolution**

4
5 **SUPPORT OF FERC REGULATION OF HYDRO LICENSING**

6
7 The Northwest Public Power Association recognizes the interrelationship
8 between energy and environmental policies, especially in connection with water
9 resource development. This interrelationship has been acknowledged, with
10 respect to hydroelectric power projects, in the Federal Power Act (FPA) and other
11 acts of Congress, which recognize the role of the states but at the same time
12 delegate to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the responsibility
13 for balancing environmental and energy interests in licensing water resource
14 projects on interstate navigable streams.

15 The FPA also requires FERC to give state and federal resource agency
16 recommendations deference in the licensing process, and FERC has adopted the
17 vast majority of these recommendations. Additionally, under the Clean Water
18 Act, a hydropower license applicant must obtain a water quality certification
19 (the so called "Section 401 permit") from the relevant states before it can issue a
20 license for a hydroelectric power project.

21 NWPPA supports giving the FERC authority to balance environmental
22 and energy interests in the licensing process. NWPPA is also concerned about
23 the steadily increasing complexity of the hydro relicensing process and the time
24 required for acting on such applications. Representatives of the hydropower
25 industry therefore recommended to FERC procedures to reform the licensing
26 process and reduce the time necessary to obtain a license.

27 In addition, NWPPA supports current or on-going reforms to the
28 hydropower licensing process to (1) streamline regulations; (2) provide for early
29 and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders; (3) provide license applicants
30 an opportunity to offer cost-effective alternatives to mandatory conditions; (4)
31 promote competition, while at the same time recognizing existing license
32 holders' renewal preference; (5) facilitate settlement opportunities and the
33 timely resolution of interagency conflicts; (6) reduce post-filing disputes and
34 additional information requests, and (7) maintain the economic viability of
35 hydroelectric projects.

36
37 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

38
39 Origination Date: 1997

40