

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

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3 **5-05 Archive Resolution**

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5 **ACCIDENTAL WILDLIFE ELECTROCUTIONS**

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7 Past interpretations of the Migratory Bird Act have asserted that
8 accidental electrocution (or death by collision) of raptors and migratory
9 bird species is a deliberate “taking” of wildlife by electric utilities. Severe
10 penalties have been assessed and proposed against utilities whose
11 systems have experienced such contacts and mid-flight collisions.

12 It is impractical and prohibitively expensive for lines, poles and
13 aerial equipment to be converted to underground or to be retrofitted to
14 mitigate or eliminate impact to avian species.

15 We urge balance in the Federal government’s approach to
16 preserving wildlife at the expense of serving our human population with
17 the most basic of necessities – affordable electric power. We urge
18 Congress to clarify that in-flight electrocutions or contacts by avian
19 species do not qualify as a deliberate “taking” of protected avian species.
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23 Origination Date: 5/2001 by Alaska Village Electric Co-op.
24 Archived: 2005