

Northwest Public Power Association

Resolution 2010-04

Local Control for Retail Rate Setting and Conservation and Renewable Programs

Background

NWPPA believes that through the efforts of local control, consumer-owned utilities in the West have established themselves as leaders in developing conservation and renewables programs for their consumers and in providing equitable retail rates. Local control is a well-functioning tradition and historical form of regulation for public power utilities. NWPPA members have been involved in conservation standards since the 1980's, which is an example of the benefits of local control. To complement conservation and greenhouse gas reduction efforts, public power utilities are investing in locally tailored renewable energy programs that best meet the individual needs of their communities. Each utility, through its own rate and socioeconomic studies, has been able to determine their fair share of costs for each class of customer. The elected officials of such locally-controlled utilities are responsible for the proper functions of their utility and are directly accountable to their customers.

NWPPA's Position

- NWPPA believes that policy decisions, such as rate setting and the development of and investment in renewable resources and conservation, should be left to the authority of the locally elected governing boards of public power utilities.
- NWPPA opposes any efforts that would change, undermine or diminish the regulation of public power utilities from traditional and historical local control.
- NWPPA believes Congress should work with public power utilities to remove barriers and create incentives for conservation and renewable resources rather than through mandated programs.
- Public power utilities should have access to incentives that are comparable to those available to private utilities.

Origination Date: 1997. Revised in 2010. Approved 5-25-2010 by NWPPA membership.