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NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

24-06 Archived Resolution

INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND SECURITY COSTS

Federal multi-purpose hydropower and delivery systems were authorized by Congress to provide a wide range of significant benefits to millions of citizens in the United States and elsewhere, including: flood control; irrigation; municipal water supply; interstate and international compact water deliveries; lake and stream recreation; blue ribbon trout fisheries; river regulation; economic development; fish and wildlife propagation and mitigation, and power generation and transmission.

Ensuring the security of these federal facilities is of utmost importance to all citizens of the United States, not just to the direct beneficiaries of those resources.

Consumer-owned electric utilities already pay the majority of the total reimbursable costs of these facilities, including subsidizing the costs of irrigation features, flood control, river transportation and environmental programs, ensuring repayment of the federal debt plus interest.

NWPPA calls upon the Federal Government to ensure that all costs associated with maintaining security of federal hydropower and delivery system facilities in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001 be treated as non-reimbursable and that payment of such costs be funded through federal appropriations.

Congress' most important contribution to improving infrastructure security will be in providing adequate funding over time, particularly should it impose rigid requirements for additional security measures that will be costly to implement. Moreover, where such security measures are to be implemented by consumer-owned systems and are necessary to protect general public health and safety, and thus go beyond what is necessary under ordinary circumstances to protect reliability of electric service, the costs of these measures should not be borne exclusively by electricity ratepayers. Rather, Congress and the Administration should provide appropriate reimbursement to consumer-owned systems for those portions of relevant costs that are necessary to protect general public health and safety.

NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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