Northwest Public Power Association
Resolution 2015-14
Rural Utility Service

Background

USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) administers programs that provide much-need infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services play a critical role in helping to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

Utilities programs connect rural residents to the global economy by: increasing access to broadband and telecommunications services; funding sustainable renewable energy development and conservation; financing reliable and affordable electric systems; working to integrate electric smart grid technologies; and developing reliable and affordable rural water and wastewater systems.

NWPPA's Position

- NWPPA supports the RUS and its mission of enabling the building and maintaining of essential electric infrastructure through the Electric Loan Program.
- For RUS to remain a strong partner with eligible entities, NWPPA urges Congress to provide sufficient RUS loan levels and RUS lending for a full complement of generation (including baseload), transmission, and distribution projects.
- NWPPA urges RUS to provide efficient loan processing.

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