



Now is the Time to Defend Independent Power Across the West

**Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition
Spring 2008**

While most of the U.S. economy relies for its electricity on transparent competitive wholesale markets, the Western states, outside of California, are mired in a regime dominated by incumbent utilities. When competition is stifled, consumers lose.

Independent, non-utility firms develop thermal and renewable power plants with private capital and at no risk to ratepayers. Independent power producers (IPPs) are only paid when our plants perform. We spare consumers the risks of construction cost overruns, outages and poor power plant performance to name a few. Even so, IPPs' market share is shrinking here, as Western utilities push for a restoration of a failed monopoly paradigm and reinstatement of vertical integration.

The monopolists have the momentum. Consider for example that:

- PacifiCorp convinces Utah legislature to allow self-builds up to 300 MW from a prior 100 MW cap
- Portland General Electric builds a 300 MW wind farm claiming a 37% capacity factor even though no neighboring wind projects perform as well
- PacifiCorp seeks waivers of competitive procurement guidelines to purchase a 520 MW gas-fired power plant outside its service territory
- Avista announces plans to purchase development rights to a 50 MW wind farm project
- PacifiCorp attempts to redo its "bid" halfway through a competitive RFP
- Idaho Power describes its acquisition of gas-fired turbines in its "competitive" RFP for new thermal resource

The utilities claim they need to own wind farms and thermal power plants in order to integrate wind power into their systems. They may want to, but they needn't own either.

The prospects for independent power in the Northwest and Intermountain West are contracting. IPP developers need to rally now if we're going to be able to defend our industry and go on delivering benefits to consumers.

It's way past time to defend competitive power across the West

Independent power developers – thermal and renewable – need to speak with a unified voice. We need to make the best possible case for competitively procured power generation where success depends on performance.

The Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition has effectively championed IPP interests since 2002. We have shown that thermal and renewable power producers can successfully collaborate but we need your participation to help us do an even better job.

“Only by working together can we stop the backward rush to the future and re-open business opportunities for our beleaguered industry.”

–Denise Hill, Horizon Wind Energy, President NIPPC

Competitive power advocates seek:

- Truly fair and competitive RFPs by regional utilities
- Options to sell power rather than only sell power plants
- Open, non-discriminatory transmission service
- Access to regional markets as new transmission is constructed
- Markets for a full-range of ancillary services
- Fair re-dispatch protocols along congested transmission paths
- Long-term, jointly beneficial relationships with our customers: the utilities

The Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition is reaching out to IPPs in Idaho and Utah as well as in Washington and Oregon. NIPPC seeks to coalesce IPPs to better advocate for genuine competition in wholesale power production.

Our coalition will:

- Advocate for sensible climate change policy and show how IPPs develop the best performing zero or low carbon emitting power plants
- Promote rational, non-discriminatory and cost-effective transmission infrastructure investment
- Demonstrate the value of re-dispatch to integrate wind and promote transmission system reliability
- Build alliances with consumer advocates and business groups
- Inform opinion leaders and elected officials on the negative monopolistic practices of regional utilities
- Urge BPA to cap its power sales and enable willing public power utilities to access the market
- Represent IPPs’ shared interests in state capitals, before Congress and key federal agencies such as FERC
- Educate the media on the benefits of independent power

As the utilities push for a return to vertical integration, IPPs must vigorously promote compelling alternatives to the monopolists’ retrograde future. If we don’t make the case for competitive power, who will?

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