



Columbia REA

December 21, 2020

Paul Rossow
Utility Analyst
Electric & Natural Gas Division
Oregon Public Utility Commission
PO Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308

Dear Paul,

Pursuant to OAR 860-29080(2), I am filing avoided cost information on behalf of Columbia Rural Electric Association (CREA).

Under current contracts, CREA buys 88% of their wholesale power requirements for load growth from BPA at the Priority Firm (PF) rate in accordance with Section 5(b)(1) of the Northwest Power Act. These purchases are made at Tier 1 rates. Additional power needs are purchased from the City of Walla Walla hydro on a ten year contract basis as well as an amount purchased through Northwest Energy Supply Cooperative, a group of Cooperatives.

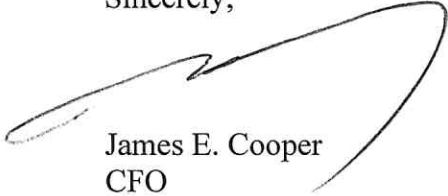
BPA and CREA signed 20 year Load Following contracts that took effect on October 1, 2011. These contracts confer the ability to purchase an established amount of power at an embedded cost rate (Tier 1). CREA also has contracts with NESC and City of Walla Walla to meet their above Tier I wholesale power needs. CREA will continue to meet more than 85% of their loads at the Tier 1 rate for the first few years of the contract. The timing, shape, and magnitude of any above HWM price exposure for load growth varies from year to year, however CREA has committed to purchase the balance of their above high water mark (load growth) requirements with NESC purchases at a take-or-pay rate for at least the first five years of the new contract (through 2022) as well as a ten year take or pay contract with the City of Walla Walla (through 2023). The High Water Mark is essentially a set apportionment for each BPA customer of cost based power from the federal system. For details on the BPA Tiered Rate Methodology, please visit BPA's website at: <http://www.bpa.gov/Finance/RateInformation/Pages/default.aspx>

Avoided costs, or the cost of meeting load growth will vary by year depending upon the relationship of the utility's load to their High Water Mark. For CREA load that is below the High Water Mark, the load will be met at the Tier 1 rate of 34.5 mills per kWh. For CREA load above the High Water Mark, load growth will be met at the average Tier 2 rate for the following years, FY2021 (\$27.85), FY2022 (\$29.00), FY2023 (\$29.00). For

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2021/2022 CREA will purchase any load growth that occurs but that was not forecast prior to the rate case will be met at the load shaping rate which averages 25 mills per kWh. These rates are currently being discussed in a rate proceeding at BPA and will not be set until July of 2021 when they go to FERC for final approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

James E. Cooper
CFO