



October 31, 2012

Via Email: JOT@wapa.gov  
RE: Defining the Future – Next Steps

The Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) represents the 29 cities and towns in Colorado that own their own electric distribution systems. Taken together, municipal utilities serve 17% of the population of the State of Colorado and support a wide variety of Colorado industries, military installations, small businesses and families.

Colorado's municipal utilities depend upon on the reliable and affordable electricity provided through the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), with the average CAMU community counting on WAPA for 23% of its annual power. This dependency is greater among many small, rural Colorado communities where WAPA allocations account for well over 40% of the community's power. For example, the small town of Haxtun, Colorado (which has a modest population of 937 people) counts on WAPA for approximately 50% of the town's electric supply.

Due to our reliance on WAPA power, CAMU members are keenly interested in the Department of Energy's (DOE) "Defining the Future" initiative. In response to this initiative, CAMU and its members have actively participated in DOE's "Defining the Future" listening sessions and webinars and CAMU submitted its official comments on the DOE listening sessions the JOT Team on August 20, 2012.

CAMU is aware that JOT Team is prepared to make official recommendations to the Secretary based on the "Defining the Future" listening sessions and will publish its recommendations in the Federal Register. CAMU is further aware that the JOT Team will be soliciting further comment on these recommendations

Because the JOT Team recommendations will likely be very broad and highly technical, CAMU is requesting a 90-day period for public comment. CAMU feels such an extension is necessary in order to give us ample time to thoughtfully analyze the recommendations and in turn offer constructive and meaningful comments.

Thank you for your continued inclusion of Western's customers in the "Defining the Future" process and we look forward to your positive response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Daniel Hodges  
Executive Director