



October 15, 2012

Department of Energy / Joint Outreach Team:

Redding Electric Utility (Redding) is a “direct connect customer” of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Redding receives nearly 8 percent of the electricity output from the federal dams that make up the Central Valley Project, which is marketed and delivered from WAPA’s Sierra Nevada Region. In addition, Redding has two direct connections to WAPA’s transmission facilities and Redding purchases additional transmission capacity from WAPA to import firm and shaped renewable power from the Pacific Northwest to enable Redding to meet California’s aggressive renewable portfolio standards.

Consequently, any proposed changes resulting from Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Steven Chu’s March 16, 2012, memo and subsequent “Defining the Future” initiative workshops could significantly alter Redding’s generation and transmission resources, the ability for Redding to meet state and federal mandates, and maintain Redding’s longstanding commitment to reliably serve its customers’ electricity needs.

Redding, along with many other WAPA customers, has been informed that DOE’s draft recommendations to achieve the Secretary’s goals for WAPA will be released in the federal register on November 9, 2012. It was stated during the workshops that WAPA customers would be given only 30 days to respond to these recommendations once they are released. However, we believe the 30-day period is inconsistent with other federal register notices, and given the wide scope of issues raised in Secretary Chu’s memo and in the “Defining the Future” workshops, we do not believe 30 days is nearly enough time to provide a meaningful review of the recommendations and adequately develop satisfactory and useful feedback for DOE. Thus, we respectfully request that no less than 90 days be provided for the comment period. Given the potential implications to Redding and our customers resulting from this process, it is essential that adequate time be given for a meaningful review before WAPA customers submit comments.

Sincerely,

Barry Tippin
Electric Utility Director