



## RESOLUTION

### **A Resolution in Support of the Operation of Columbia Generating Station, a Carbon-Free Source of Affordable Electricity**

Whereas, 6,400 United Electric Co-op, Inc. customers and ratepayers in Minidoka and Cassia counties rely on a reliable supply of electricity at affordable prices.

Whereas, United Electric Co-op, Inc. is committed to providing its customers with as much of their electricity as economically possible from carbon-free generating resources.

Whereas, Energy Northwest, a Joint Operating Agency of the state of Washington, is committed to producing electricity from carbon-free generating resources.

Whereas, Energy Northwest operates the Columbia Generating Station, a nuclear power plant that is the largest source of carbon-free electricity in the State of Washington after the state's indigenous supply of clean hydroelectric power.

Whereas, the Columbia Generating Station is capable of delivering 1,200 megawatts of continuously available power to the grid, which is sufficient to power a million homes while emitting virtually no greenhouse gases.

Whereas, the Columbia Generating Station has an exemplary record of safe and reliable operation, producing enough low-cost, carbon-free electricity each year to supply a city the size of Seattle, Wash.

Whereas, the replacement of Columbia Generating Station by a similarly reliable source of electricity would add at least 3,000,000 tons of carbon to the atmosphere each year, which may adversely affect efforts to combat climate change.<sup>i</sup>

Whereas, the power generated by the Columbia Generating Station is available regardless of weather conditions, and is therefore well-suited to support reliable electric grid baseload and capacity demand, including backing up increasing levels of intermittent renewable wind and solar power.

Whereas, the Columbia Generating Station has been an integral part of our community, culture and economy for over thirty years, and currently supports more than 990 high-paying jobs in the area, while contributing approximately \$475 million annually to the local and state economy.

Whereas, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, following extensive safety and environmental technical reviews, and onsite inspections, found that the Columbia Generating Station can continue its safe and reliable operation through 2043.

Whereas, the Directors of United Electric Co-op, Inc. have found that the operation of Columbia Generating Station is essential to ensuring that the region's customers receive a continuing supply of affordable, carbon-free electricity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, it is encouraged that Energy Northwest should take all possible steps to ensure the continued safe and reliable contribution of Columbia Generating Station, through its lifecycle, to the northwest clean energy mix, as approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ADOPTED by United Electric Co-op, Inc. on this the 19th day of February 2018.

  
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Cordell Searle, Secretary

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<sup>i</sup> 8760 hours x 90% capacity factor x 1,190 MWs (upgraded to 1207 MWs in 2017) x 700 lbs CO<sub>2</sub> per MWh from the most efficient CCGT. Columbia historically runs at greater than 90% capacity; according to a separate 2014 study by IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates (Boston, Mass.), Columbia prevents 3.6 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually compared to the most feasible replacement option of efficient natural gas-fired generation.