

## COAL RESOLUTION

- (1) Whereas** the Northwest has enough cost-effective energy efficiency and cost-competitive renewable energy (assuming only today's available technology) to meet foreseeable load growth two to two-and-one-half times over; and
- (2) Whereas** development of those resources requires responsible, long-term investment decisions by the region's utilities, their regulators and state and local policymakers; and
- (3) Whereas** the region's six major investor-owned electric utilities are considering purchasing more than 2,000 average megawatts of new coal generation for their customers in the next decade and at least two coal plants have been proposed to serve publicly-owned utilities; and
- (4) Whereas** traditional pulverized coal-based electricity may appear to be a cheap energy option when, in fact, its environmental and climate damage costs make it prohibitively expensive; and
- (5) Whereas** the price of coal supplies has increased significantly since 2004, raising concerns that coal generation is not a least-cost resource, even absent consideration of environmental and climate damage costs, and may exhibit serious fuel price volatility in coming years, and;
- (6) Whereas** even the best traditional coal-burning electric plant typically emits millions of tons of carbon dioxide and thousands of tons of other pollutants a year, taking a serious toll on human health, and;
- (7) Whereas** carbon dioxide emissions are a primary cause of the global warming that is expected to reduce Northwest snow pack 60 percent by 2050, further limiting the region's hydropower capacity; and
- (8) Whereas** coal-fired integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) technology, has been shown to be effective in eliminating most of the other pollutants emissions and may facilitate capture of the CO<sub>2</sub> for potential permanent storage ("sequestration"); and
- (9) Whereas** many questions remain about the practicality, effectiveness and costs of sequestration; and
- (10) Whereas** development of new, large coal-burning generating plants could push the limits of current transmission capacity and effectively deny grid access to electricity generated from renewables; and
- (11) Whereas** the extraction of coal fundamentally alters the landscape, impacting surface and groundwater and destroying plant and wildlife habitat; and
- (12) Whereas** the environmental contamination associated with coal processing and transport causes further damage to plants and wildlife; and
- (13) Whereas** the opportunity cost of investing in fossil fuels-based power may well result in reduced development of energy efficiency and renewables, failure to realize the Northwest Power and

Conservation Council's regional clean-energy goals, and continued consumer exposure to fossil-fuel price spikes; be it therefore

**Resolved** that the NW Energy Coalition reaffirms its commitment to meeting all Northwest electric load growth with cost-effective energy efficiency and cost-competitive renewable energy, with the further understanding that in the intermediate term (2010-2050) all electric generation must conform to the most stringent Greenhouse Gas emissions standard adopted in the region; and be it further

**Resolved** that the Coalition, for reasons of human health, the environment, environmental justice, climate disruption and consumer protection opposes construction of any new traditional (pulverized coal, circulating fluidized bed, etc) coal-fired electric power plant anywhere in the Northwest or outside the Northwest to provide power to the Northwest; and be it further

**Resolved** that the Coalition states its preference that IGCC technologies be used to replace existing traditional coal generation; and be it further

**Resolved** that if the Coalition is satisfied that a utility has exhausted all clean-energy options, the Coalition would not actively oppose the utility's decision to construct or purchase power from an appropriately sited IGCC coal plant that fully sequesters its carbon dioxide, has appropriate reclamation agreements in place, and resulted from an integrated resource planning process with full public access to assumptions and analysis; and be it further

**Resolved** that the Coalition will oppose construction or power-purchase agreements with any appropriately sited IGCC coal plant or coal-to-liquid fuel plant built in or serving the region unless:

- The plant is constructed with carbon separation and capture technology, and
- Its developers fully sequester the collected carbon dioxide, and be it further

**Resolved** that full, permanent sequestration is the preferred option. In the event that the developer or power purchaser finds that full, permanent sequestration is not available, they must legally commit to paying a fee equal to or greater than the Oregon or Washington State CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation rate whichever is larger for every ton of CO<sub>2</sub> produced and not sequestered.

*Adopted October 23, 2005*