

The Committee understands that the Department formally approved in 1995 the right of the Affected Units of Local Government to retain interest earned on unexpended balances in their oversight accounts. The Committee affirms that this policy reflects the intent of Congress and should be maintained by the Department.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

Public Law 95-91 transferred to the Department of Energy the power marketing functions under section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 and all other functions of the Department of the Interior with respect to the Bonneville Power Administration, Southeastern Power Administration, Southwestern Power Administration, and the power marketing functions of the Bureau of Reclamation, now included in the Western Area Power Administration.

All Power Marketing Administrations except Bonneville are funded annually with appropriations, and related receipts are deposited in the Treasury. Bonneville operations are self-financed under authority of Public Law 93-454, the Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act of 1974, which authorizes Bonneville to use its revenues to finance operating costs, maintenance and capital construction, and sell bonds to the Treasury if necessary to finance any remaining capital program requirements.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

The Bonneville Power Administration [BPA] is the Federal electric power marketing agency in the Pacific Northwest, a 300,000 square-mile service area that encompasses Oregon, Washington, Idaho, western Montana, and small portions of adjacent States in the Columbia River basin. BPA markets hydroelectric power from 21 multipurpose water resource projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and 10 projects of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, plus some energy from non-Federal generating projects in the region. These generating resources and BPA's transmission system are operated as an integrated power system with operating and financial results combined and reported as the Federal Columbia River Power System [FCRPS]. BPA is the largest power wholesaler in the Northwest and provides about 45 percent of the region's electric energy supply and about three-fourths of the region's electric power transmission capacity.

BPA finances its operations on the basis of the self-financing authority provided by Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act of 1974 (Transmission Act) (Public Law 93-454) and the borrowing authority provided by the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Pacific Northwest Power Act) (Public Law 96-501) for energy conservation, renewable energy resources and capital fish facilities. Authority to borrow is available to the BPA on a permanent, indefinite basis.

The Committee is concerned about the increasing cost of salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River Basin, and about the potential adverse impact of those increased costs on customers of the Bonneville Power Administration. The Committee also is concerned about the quality and efficiency of some of the fish data collection efforts and analyses being performed. As a result, during fiscal

year 2006, the Bonneville Power Administration may make no new obligations from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund in support of the Fish Passage Center. The Committee understands that there are universities in the Pacific Northwest that already collect fish data for the region and are well-positioned to take on the responsibilities now being performed by the Fish Passage Center, and that the universities can carry out those responsibilities at a savings to the region's ratepayers that fund these programs.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER
ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2005	\$5,158,000
Budget estimate, 2006	
House allowance	5,600,000
Committee recommendation	5,600,000

The Southeastern Power Administration markets hydroelectric power produced at Corps of Engineers projects in 11 Southeastern States. Southeastern does not own or operate any transmission facilities and carries out its marketing program by utilizing the existing transmission systems of the power utilities in the area. This is accomplished through transmission arrangements between Southeastern and each of the area utilities with transmission lines connected to the projects. The utility agrees to deliver specified amounts of Federal power to customers of the Government, and Southeastern agrees to compensate the utility for the wheeling service performed.

The Committee recommendation includes \$32,713,000 for purchase power and wheeling activities.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER
ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2005	\$29,117,000
Budget estimate, 2006	3,166,000
House allowance	30,166,000
Committee recommendation	30,166,000

The Southwestern Power Administration is the marketing agent for the power generated at Corps of Engineers' hydroelectric plants in the six-State area of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana with a total installed capacity of 2,158 megawatts. It operates and maintains some 1,380 miles of transmission lines, 24 generating projects, and 24 substations, and sells its power at wholesale primarily to publicly and cooperatively owned electric distribution utilities.

The Committee recommendation includes \$3,000,000 for purchase power and wheeling activities.

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2005	\$171,715,000
Budget estimate, 2006	53,957,000
House allowance	226,992,000
Committee recommendation	240,757,000

The Western Area Power Administration is responsible for marketing electric power generated by the Bureau of Reclamation, the