

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR
A S S O C I A T I O N

May 12, 2010

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
550 Capitol St NE #215
PO Box 2148
Salem OR 97308-2148

Dear Commissioners,

The Columbia Corridor Association (CCA) was established in 1986 with a mission to enhance the economic prosperity of the Columbia Corridor by bringing businesses, environmental organizations, government agencies and others together to create collaborative solutions. In that capacity, the CCA tracks issues that affect business in the Columbia Corridor, which is located along the south shore of the Columbia River, from the Willamette River to the Sandy River, in an area with tremendous natural, cultural, and economic values. The more than 2,000 businesses and 60,000 employees in the Columbia Corridor have a stake in Oregon's energy future.

PGE's proposal is the kind of balanced approach to problem solving that the Columbia Corridor Association was formed to help achieve. A 2020 shutdown would help Corridor businesses that are PGE customers to save money on utility costs, lead to long-term benefits for the environment, and allow PGE enough time to put into place a reliable replacement power source. PGE's plan would close the plant early, while meeting customers' needs for reliable power at reasonable costs. The company would reduce emissions during the plant's remaining years by installing new controls and making other operational changes, while ending all coal-related emissions from Boardman at least 20 years ahead of its scheduled closure date.

We are particularly concerned with the financial burden of higher electricity prices for Columbia Corridor businesses that would be associated with a 2014 shutdown of one of PGE's most reliable, low-cost resources. A 2020 closure of Boardman would save PGE customers about \$600 million over the next decade, compared to a 2014 shutdown, helping PGE keep electricity costs reasonable. This is a vital concern of many larger industrial customers located along the Columbia Corridor. Strong environmental standards are essential, but those standards should be implemented in ways that will not have a detrimental effect on the local economy.

On April 29, 2010, our Board of Directors voted to intervene in OPUC Docket LC48 specifically to comment on PGE's proposed 2020 Plan to close the Boardman Coal Plant. We believe PGE's proposal to install controls to dramatically decrease emissions in the near-term and close Boardman in 2020 is the sensible, measured plan for the Oregon economy. The Columbia Corridor Association respectfully requests that the Oregon Public Utility Commission acknowledge PGE's alternative plan for its Boardman Plant, which is set forth in PGE's Integrated Resource Plan. We urge you to support PGE's proposed actions for the Boardman Plant as described in the 2009 IRP Addendum.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Corky Collier
Executive Director