

### We're Back!

Enjoy this edition of the Columbia River Treaty Power Group's quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to provide the highlights of the key issues and happenings as it relates to the goal of seeing a modernized Columbia River Treaty. In each newsletter, we also look to provide Power Group members with tools that can help communicate the importance of rebalancing the Canadian Entitlement. Have ideas for content you would like to see in the future? Let us know by emailing [rhoelterhoff@gcpud.org](mailto:rhoelterhoff@gcpud.org).

### In the News

Chair of the Columbia River Treaty Power Group and Executive Director of the Public Power Council, Scott Simms recently visited with Hydro Leader magazine to discuss the Columbia River Treaty in more detail. He shares why resolving the issue is important for the Northwest and its electrical customers. The in-depth interview provides readers a comprehensive look at the background and current status of the issue. Enjoy reading the interview on Hydro Leader's [website](#).



### Power Group Sends Letter to President Biden

As the United States and Canada were preparing to conduct the 17th round of Columbia River Treaty regime negotiations in May, The Power Group's Chair and Vice Chair sent a letter to President Biden outlining the group's request to provide input before a draft agreement in principle is reached. The letter outlines the key reasons why input from the Power Group is necessary before an agreement is finalized. Including why potential new operational requirements can be reviewed to ensure the long-term power supply planning needs of the region can be met. A link to the letter is available on the Power Group's website and can also be found [here](#).



### State Department Host Virtual Listening Sessions

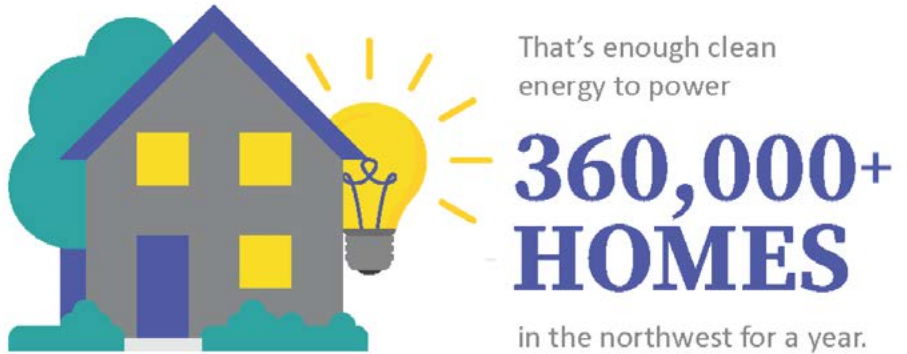
In April and again in May the U.S. Government hosted a virtual listening session for the public to participate and learn more about the efforts of the government to modernize the Columbia River Treaty. Both sessions saw the coordinated participation of the environmental community dominate the overall list of participants providing comments. A few Power Group members were also given the opportunity share input. The State Department has posted recordings of both sessions on its [website](#).

## Ready Made Communication Tools

Use these ready made tools below as part of your organization's existing communication strategy. The graphic files have been attached to the email for your convenience.

### Tool #1 - Info graphic

“The imbalance of the Columbia River Treaty means that clean, affordable hydropower produced in the U.S. is transferred to Canada and then purchased back the U.S. during peak season. As a result, electric customers are overpaying an estimated \$300 million per year.”



### Tool #2 - Social media or newsletter fact

“Inaction has cost Northwest electrical customers upwards of \$1 billion since 2014, the earliest date under the treaty that the U.S. could have issued a notice of termination. It is in the best interest of Northwest electrical customers to re-balance the power provisions of the Treaty. Without a significant reduction, electrical customers in the U.S. are subsidizing other considerations under treaty, such as flood control.”

## Comments Submitted to DOE

The importance of transmission is critical to our region. As such, the Power Group shared comments regarding the key role transmission plays in our region with the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office as the Department prepares to finalize its National Transmission Study. Congress created an opportunity in the Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 to increase the bilateral transfer of renewable electric generation between the U.S. and Canada via the construction of new transmission facilities. However, these activities are contingent upon the Canadian Entitlement being reduced or terminated. Learn more [here](#).

## Have Photos to Share?

The communications team for the Power Group is made up of individuals from member utilities, and in an effort to expand our supply of photos beyond what's in our respective company's files, we'd love to have you share your photos of the Columbia River Basin or hydro projects on the River. These will accompany social media posts, newsletter articles and more. Photos and/or questions can be sent to Ryan Holterhoff [rholterhoff@gcpud.org](mailto:rholterhoff@gcpud.org). We are excited showcase your projects and region of the River's Basin.