

NEW Columbia River Treaty Option for' Good Neighbors'

By VERN RUSKIN

, BPA holds meetings whether to continue (Option #1), terminate (Option #2), or revise (Option #3) the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) which was ratified by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, & Johnson with Canadian leaders Diefenbaker & Bennett, motivated by Columbia floods killing fifteen Americans and destroying Vanport, Oregon's second largest city

BPA's Historian J. Hyde stated Canada built dams "providing billions of dollars worth of flood control and power benefitting both countries",. US Army Corps Engineers estimated "From 1972-1997. Columbia dams prevented \$964 million damages", while US paid bargain \$64 million for half the cost of Canadian dams, and FLOODS NO LONGER KILLED AMERICANS..

Today BPA's spokesman Hansen argues: "U.S. pays Canada/BC \$-300 million per year" but "value" is significantly less than half of what we're paying"; Unlike US Army Corps Engineers, BPA's Hyde, lawyers & Courts, apparently Hansen undervalues flood protection and American lives

"President Kennedy funded BPA's transmission of Columbia power to California. Surprisingly, Californians aren't invited to BPA's meetings. Canadian dams produce US power downstream

For first 30 years (1964-94) US got bargain cheap power at ½ cent (0.5 cents) per kwhr, 95% below today's California retail, Next 30 years (1994-2024), US gets 7000 mwhrs (per Professor Krutilla), for \$300 million. averaging 4.3 cents per kwhr, 57% below California retail

"Hansen apparently overlooks Canada gets PAID for only 50% of power produced, while US gets 50% of power FOR FREE, lowering the AVERAGE cost. So US gets much cheaper hydropower for CA, WA, OR, versus dearer alternative gas fired plants, which emit "greenhouse gas" with Carbon and Nitrous Oxides, causing climate change and smog

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But Hansen is right about one fact: NEITHER US NOR CANADA ARE GETTING FULL VALUE FOR THEIR INVESTMENT -- WHY? Because Canadian dams were designed for flood control, not power. One dam even has no generators. BC archived the rest because of a 1961 power glut. Today water spills and wastes, so I volunteered to research NEW TREATY OPTION #4:

Using WAC Bennett's proven "US finance recipe", and Option #4, US could reasonably negotiate another 30 years cheap power, around 4 cents/kwhr, 60% below California retail... Option #4 could add 3000 MW to power 1.5 million more homes for 4.5 million Americans, by adding generators to existing dams, plus shelved "run of-river" plants. ... That's clean" GREEN" "RENEWABLE" hydropower, flooding no land beyond natural high water ... BC has 4.5 million people. but UNUSED hydro potential for another 18 million people:-, surplus for many years, while water spills & wastes

Over 30 years, Option #4 could save US consumers an estimated \$12 billion fuel charges, compared to gas fired plants, which would yearly emit 16 million tons" greenhouse gas", causing climate change and smog, Savings may double in future, as gas prices rise. ... OPTION #4 could release more water for fish and Irrigation without worrying about reduced power because it generates 3000MW more Option #4 could also create jobs.

.Taxpayers may cheer: no government money is needed: It could get financed by private utility and municipal bonds, (like original Treaty) .

1. Recommendation

Both nations need to work together on an engineering feasibility/cost/benefit study of Option #4, , which might economically and environmentally be better, and potentially lead to ANOTHER WIN/WIN US/CANADA Treaty in September 2014

Notes on NEW Columbia River Treaty Option for' Good Neighbors'

Vern Ruskin Credentials

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Relevant Work Experience: Vern Ruskin was the Director of Planning for B.C. Electric, the predecessor company of BC Hydro, and directed Peace and Columbia River engineering. He started an engineering consulting company in 1970 in Vancouver, BC .. He got a green card . In 1974 he formed a consulting company in Bellingham WA with offices in Los Angeles ,San Francisco .Chicago .Atlanta Cincinatti . His clients included 31 US and Canadian utilities and pipelines **,

He taught" Engineering Economics" at UBC for 14 yrs, He semi-retired and wrote an e-Book-for Amazon -Kindle "Clean Energy Starvation in the Midst of Plenty" and articles on NEW Columbia River Treaty Option for' Good Neighbors'

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** Clients, BC Hydro, Washington Water Power ,Saskatchewan Power Corp, West Kootenay Power Co, San Diego Gas &Electric, Con Edison, Portland General Electric, Metropolitans Utility District, Boston Gas, Providence Gas, Brooklyn Union ,Lone Star Gas, Alagasco, Southern California Gas ,Cascade Natural Gas, Mountain Fuel Supply Co, Inland Gas, Union Gas. Plains Western Gas, Lakeland Gas, Gaz Metro ,Gaz du Quebec ,Northern& Central Gas, Consumers Gas, Westcoast Transmission, Washington Nat Gas, Gt.Winnipeg Gas, Minnegasco, Peoples Gas , , Trans Canada Pipelines ,Transmountain Pipelines

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President Obama asked :

"No country in isolation is going to be able to solve this problem. The dilemma that Canada and the United States face, is how do we obtain the energy in a way that is not rapidly accelerating climate change,"(Feb 17, 2009 interview by Peter Mansbridge CBC)

Answer= CRT Option #4

Prime Minister [John Diefenbaker](#) (seated left) and US President [Dwight Eisenhower](#) at The signing of the Columbia River Treaty, 1961

