

## **SUPPORT SHUTTING DOWN BOARDMAN POWER PLANT**

Submitted by: Trails Club of Oregon

**Background:** The Boardman coal-fired power plant is the single largest source of air pollution affecting the Columbia Gorge. Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NOX) produce severe acid rain and fog, and cloud views. Damage is occurring to endemic plants, petroglyphs, timber, and people's health. In addition, up to 5 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) are emitted per year making the plant the largest point source of global warming gasses in Oregon. Stringent pollution controls, while long overdue, would be very costly and would do nothing to control CO<sub>2</sub>. The best option for Columbia Gorge air quality, PGE ratepayers, and the global climate is early closure of the Boardman plant.

In January 2010, PGE offered its 2020 Plan whereby it would close the plant in 2020 if allowed to operate without installing pollution controls. In June, the Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality rejected that plan.

Now, DEQ has proposed a plan including three options for early closure, plus a 2040 option.

Require closure of the plant in 2015 if PGE chose not to install SO<sub>2</sub> scrubbers in 2014.

Require plant closure in 2018 if PGE installed less expensive dry sorbent injection systems to remove up to 40% of sulfur dioxide emissions by 2014.

Require closure in 2020 if PGE installed SO<sub>2</sub> scrubbers in 2014 to remove up to 90% of sulfur dioxide emissions.

PGE would be allowed to operate until 2040 if it installed both SO<sub>2</sub> scrubbers in 2014 and selective catalytic reductions in 2017 to remove 80% of nitrogen oxide emissions.

All of these options fail to address carbon dioxide emission and ignore current rules that require reductions of hazardous air pollutants by 2015.

PGE's best option is to implement early closure and begin the transition to cleaner energy sources. Closure of the plant would mean an immediate reduction of Gorge air pollution by as much as 50%. The costs of pollution controls would be passed to ratepayers whether or not the plant closed. The plant is up for re-authorization in 2014. Environmentalists are asking the Public Utility Commission to adopt a plan that requires early closure of Boardman. Closure in 2014 is the best balance between risks and costs. And definitely the best option for air quality in the Columbia Gorge.

[Note: this material supplied by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Sierra Club]

**Resolution:** The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly supports the earliest possible closure of the Portland General Electric Co. Boardman Coal Fired Plant.

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