

Bonneville surplus available for transmission by a privately owned intertie of which this line will be a segment. We not only can but must put aside the consideration that there may be controversy concerning the disposition of Bonneville's surplus. Whether a publicly owned interconnection should be constructed, whether such interconnection would meet the growing demand for power in the region and thus remove any economic justification for Applicant's proposed expansion of the intertie, and whether Bonneville power should be made available to Applicant for transmission to California, are not for us to decide. It is not for this Commission to exercise the role of Congress as arbiter of these competing claims. That responsibility Congress has yet to delegate.

The remaining question, then, is whether, from an economic standpoint, the extra investment required to make the facilities capable of carrying a voltage in excess of initial requirements--an investment incontrovertibly within the lawful corporate purposes of the Applicant--represents a totally improvident business decision. Any anticipation of future growth is a gamble, and failure to anticipate such growth may be a worse gamble. The electric industry, above all, is one in which making provision for future expansion is customary and prudent. We have no reason to think the "gamble" in this case, that is, the balancing of the carrying charges on the additional investment against the additional costs or losses which will be incurred in the future if the capacity of the facility cannot be expanded when and if needed, is unusual or atypical. Even if the future usefulness of the added investment is contingent upon moving Bonneville power, we cannot say that this is not a contingency Applicant is entitled, and perhaps compelled, to consider. To conclude otherwise is to arrogate to ourselves the right to determine how and by whom Bonneville power should be transmitted.

The movement of Bonneville power, moreover, is not the sole justification for making provision now for a later expansion of capacity. The enormous and continuing growth of the power industry makes it of doubtful wisdom to attempt to restrain electric utilities from taking measures to anticipate future need for greater capacity. This Commission estimated only last January that the demand for electric energy in 1980 will be 3.75 times the requirements in 1960, reflecting a continuation of the industry's recent trend of doubling almost every ten years. The supply of energy needed to meet the demand in the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest areas will come from a variety of sources. In view of the industry-wide tendency toward the use of higher voltages, there is no occasion for surprise that the company has prepared its line, having a life expectancy of upwards of