

Although we believe that the above considerations are dispositive of this case, we wish to point out that the construction of a high capacity interconnection between the two regions is in harmony with the results of studies of electrical interconnections made by our staff, the Bonneville Power Administration and the Department of the Interior. Such studies were made by our staff in 1950 ^{15/} and 1953 ^{16/} and show that an interconnection between the electric utility systems in California and the Pacific Northwest would be economically feasible and desirable. In 1960 the Bonneville Power Administration submitted to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs a study ^{17/} of possible interconnections between the Pacific Northwest and California. The Bonneville study noted that a proposed intertie between Applicant's predecessor and Pacific Gas and Electric similar to the one here involved would be less costly than an interconnection, then considered, between the federal systems. In commenting on this report in a letter of April 6, 1960, to the Senate Committee, the Chairman of this Commission stated that the findings of the Bonneville Power Administration indicate that a high voltage interconnection between the Pacific Northwest and California would be desirable and economically feasible regardless of whether the regional facilities were constructed and financed by the Federal Government or private interests. As recently as December 15, 1961, a special task force of the Department of the Interior submitted a report ^{18/} recommending that immediate steps be taken to interconnect the electric generating plants of the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest by lines having a voltage of either 750 kv d-c or 500 kv a-c. Later, in a press release of January 17, 1962 (Appendix C to the dissenting opinion) the Bonneville Power Administrator stated that the plans of Applicant and Pacific Gas & Electric "for a 110-mile 500-kv California intertie are consistent with engineering recommendations of our Bonneville Task Force report on a Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest intertie."

^{15/} Study of an Interconnection between the Electric Systems in the Pacific Northwest and California, Federal Power Commission, February, 1950, pp. 26-27.

^{16/} Report on Feasibility of California -- Oregon 230 kv Interconnection, Federal Power Commission, March, 1953, pp. 66-67, 69-72.

^{17/} Study of High Voltage Electrical Interconnection between the Pacific Northwest and California, Bonneville Power Administration, February, 1960, p. 62.

^{18/} Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Extra-High Voltage Common Carrier Interconnection, Special Task Force of U.S. Department of Interior 5-6 (December 15, 1961).