

BTA of the state of Oregon. BTA has recently launched a challenge against BC Hydro's right to export power to the US through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation - the commission established as part of the NAFTA to address such issues. BTA is arguing that since BC Hydro spends far less than it does on research into electricity-related development impacts on salmon in the Columbia River, it should not be permitted to bid against BTA for US contracts. BC Hydro's counter-argument is that despite significant spending over the last 15 years, BTA has not been able to solve the problem of how to get salmon over the larger of the dams on the Columbia.

Conclusions

The ECR Program positions CEA utility members to improve their performance on the environment. The need to improve performance on environment is motivated by imperatives to improve credibility, enhance efficiency and bolster competitiveness.

With deregulation of the electricity industry in North America, utilities are competing more than ever before - particularly for large industrial and manufacturing customers. Increasingly, environmental performance is emerging as a lever for maintaining business and obtaining new contracts.

References

Mr. John Kelly, Program Manager, Environmental Commitment and Responsibility Program

Environmental Commitment and Responsibility Program - Program Framework and Annexes, Report of the Implementation Working Group, September 16, 1997, Edition 2.