

# JOURNAL

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION



Lake Sherburne, Glacier National Park, Montana

Photo by Tony Morrell

## Power rate case update

On March 27, the hearing officer, at the request of BPA, issued a slightly revised schedule for completion of the 2002 Wholesale Power Rate Case. BPA had requested additional time to review the complex and detailed briefs filed by the parties before the draft record of decision (ROD) is completed. The draft ROD is now due on April 10. Parties will review the document and may submit final comments (known as briefs on exceptions) by April 24. The BPA administrator will consider those comments and anticipates releasing the final ROD on May 8. BPA expects that the slight delay in the final filing should not affect customers' ability to sign subscription contracts by late April, even though final rate schedules are not available until the final ROD is completed.

## Transmission rate case update

The 2002 Initial Transmission Proposal was released at a pre-hearing conference on March 29. To obtain a copy

(10 documents total) please contact BPA's Public Information Office at 905 NE 11th Ave, first floor, Portland, Oregon 97232 or by phone at (502) 230-4328 or toll-free at 1 (800) 622-4519. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed transmission terms and conditions and rates who are not formal parties to the proceeding (participants) must submit their comments by June 15, 2000. Comments from participants are incorporated into the Official Record and will be considered by the hearing officer and the BPA administrator. Please send all comments to the Corporate Communications Manager, KC-7, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212 or by e-mail to: [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov)

## BPA and Ashland work together on Solar Project

BPA has contracted with the city of Ashland, Ore., to purchase, install and maintain solar photovoltaic





systems at prominent sites in the Ashland area. BPA will purchase a portion of the output for resale through BPA's environmentally preferred power portfolio. Ashland plans initially to install the roof-mounted, grid-connected solar photovoltaic systems at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Administration Building, Ashland Post Office, Southern Oregon University Library and Ashland City Council Chambers.

BPA is contributing up to \$100,000 for the design, procurement and installation of the systems. The project will be cofunded by the city and will also receive a grant from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The output from some of the systems will be metered and credited to BPA for resale through BPA's environmentally preferred power portfolio. BPA's rights to the output from the facility will continue for 20 years, at which point BPA's interest in the facility, its output and the overall project will revert to the City of Ashland.

### **BPA and Burns Paiute Tribe join to protect and restore land**

BPA has funded the \$2 million purchase of 1,760-acre Logan Valley Ranch, located south of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area in the Malheur National Forest. The Burns Paiute Tribe will hold title and manage the property. BPA funded the purchase of the Logan Valley Ranch from The Nature Conservancy for \$2 million using BPA's fish and wildlife budget.

According to Dan Gonzalez, Burns Paiute Tribe's program manager, the tribe lost its 1.7 million-acre reservation in 1872. The current reservation was purchased and placed into reservation status through a presidential executive order in 1972. The Logan Valley Ranch acquisition is the first since re-establishment of the reservation. The property is home to mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, antelope, upland sandpipers and sandhill cranes. Endangered Species Act listed species include bull trout and bald eagle. Species proposed for ESA listing include redband trout and Canada lynx. The purchase was selected for funding through the Northwest Power Planning Council's fish and wildlife program, including scientific review and prioritization.

### **BPA survey reinforces agency's view**

Given the opportunity under deregulation, fewer than

25 percent of residential and small electricity consumers in the Northwest would choose to jump from their current suppliers to other sellers, a recent survey of utility and industrial executives shows. The survey group comprised 75 respondents chosen for their leadership positions and knowledge of Northwest energy affairs. The survey was conducted between November and January by the Portland firm of Davis & Hibbits. BPA will use the survey information to develop plans, policies and directions that are in line with its customers, constituents and interest groups. Here are highlights:

- Nearly 60 percent thought the capacity of the region's transmission system would fail to keep up with increasing demand in the next five years. Another 32 percent said the system could keep up but with qualifications. The survey did not distinguish between local delivery systems and high-voltage long-distance lines.
- Two-thirds thought the region would generate enough power to meet its own needs for the next five years. This runs counter to recent studies by the Northwest Power Planning Council and BPA that project severe shortages of power during dry, cold winters.
- Seventy percent of respondents believed entrepreneurs would step up and build "merchant" plants – generators built on speculation that the costs would be covered by sales in a competitive market. However, few plants are under construction at the present time.
- Sixty percent of those surveyed doubted that national energy legislation would pass in the next five years to address consumer electricity price issues. An even higher percentage, 74 percent of respondents, said they didn't think congress would pass a law requiring that BPA and other federal power marketing agencies charge higher "market" rates to all buyers.

"Members of congress from the Northeast and Midwest are mounting a concerted effort to deny the Northwest its lower power rates," said Steve Wright, BPA's senior vice president of Corporate. "Northwest elected representatives and their constituents must be vigilant."



Other questions dealt with forming a regional transmission organization (RTO), an RTO's role on the West Coast and how it might deal with electric reliability. Some findings:

- Nearly two-thirds believe transmission and distribution systems will play a role in e-commerce and the fledgling information economy. Electric reliability (the ability to generate enough electricity to meet demand and the availability of transmission capacity to carry the electricity) will become increasingly important as an e-commerce-based economy matures. If these new markets are going to work, reliable power and transmission systems will be critical.
- Eighty percent agreed that the region's transmission system would be organized under an RTO within the next five years. Sixty-four percent said such an RTO would serve only the Pacific Northwest instead of the whole western region. Respondents were split on whether an RTO is necessary to maintain system reliability.

Respondents also spoke to the future of the federal hydro system, BPA's role in a deregulated market, equitable distribution of federal power, separation of BPA's power and transmission businesses and the agency's role in regional power planning.

## **NW Utilities give \$100 million for energy efficiency**

On March 17, Washington Gov. Gary Locke, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, BPA Administrator Judi Johansen and a host of utility executives gathered to confirm \$100 million in funding for the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NWEAA) for the next five years. BPA will contribute half. The event was held at Siemens Solar Industries in Vancouver, Wash., the world's largest producer of silicon ingots for solar photovoltaics. The factory is home to a NWEAA project to improve the efficiency of growing silicon crystals. The NWEAA, a nonprofit organization launched by BPA and Northwest utilities, funds projects to bring affordable energy-efficient products and services to the marketplace. For more information, visit the NWEAA Web site at <http://www.nwalliance.org>

## **Northwest Solar Alliance helps move the Northwest into the solar age**

BPA, along with the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington and the U.S. Department of Energy's Seattle Regional Office, entered a cooperative effort to make the Northwest a major player in a national initiative to include solar as a vital part of a sustainable energy future.

By signing the Northwest Solar Alliance's white paper of purposes, goals and objectives, these charter members agreed to promote solar energy applications. Solar energy is one area that BPA's utility customers can engage in to qualify for the agency's conservation and renewables rate discount. The proposed rate discount for investing in renewable resources and conservation is scheduled to take effect next year. BPA hopes through its work with the alliance to connect its customers with solar opportunities.

"Harnessing the sun to generate electricity is not cost-effective right now in most applications, but it can be in certain situations," said Terry Esvelt, BPA's vice president for Energy Efficiency. "We need to take advantage of this clean, renewable resource and increasingly put it to work for the region. We see the Northwest Solar Alliance as an excellent opportunity to help make this happen."

The alliance aims to reduce global warming and other environmental threats through the promotion of solar electricity in the Pacific Northwest. It does this in part by supporting the national Million Solar Roofs Initiative, a federal program to promote the addition of one million solar units nationwide. The alliance also will support Pacific Northwest solar electric manufacturers, installers and consultants, and provide a smooth transition into the solar age. The group is looking to increase in size and impact as it recruits other supporting members.

For BPA, this is the latest in a series of regional partnerships focused on advancing the wise and efficient use of energy. With the demand for power steadily increasing, the agency is actively looking for opportunities that can enhance its ability to meet customer needs and the needs of Northwest consumers.

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

## STATUS REPORTS

**Big Eddy-Ostrander Vegetation Management.** Ore. — To control vegetation on two segments of the 500-kV transmission line right-of-way. One segment is from Lolo Pass to near Parkdale. The other segment is east of Parkdale. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDA) Trout Production Facility Project.** Idaho — To fund the design, construction, operations and maintenance of the facility to help meet the need for off-site mitigation for losses on the mainstem Columbia River. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan.** Regionwide — To examine the impacts that may arise from implementing one of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in the ongoing regional processes. An EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to mail list.

**Fourmile Hill Geothermal Development Project (Calpine).** No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on U.S. Forest Service land in the Klamath and Modoc forests. BLM has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. A final EIS and summary are available. Call to receive a copy.

**IDFG Snake River Chinook Captive Rearing.** Idaho — To fund Idaho Department of Fish and Game's captive rearing project for Endangered Species Act-listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon. The EA is being finalized. A FONSI is anticipated.

**Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement.** Idaho — Development of a native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing of acclimated smolts to preserve and recover the population. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**NEW! Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project.** Wash. — To build a 500-kV transmission line in central King County that would connect an existing transmission line near the community of Kangley into the Echo Lake Substation. An EIS is being prepared. Scoping is underway. See Calendar of Events and Close

of Comment. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Northwest Regional Power Facility.** Wash. — To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) and a supplement analysis are available. Call to receive a copy.

**Shelton-Kitsap Transmission Rebuild.** Wash. — To rebuild a 31-mile 115-kV transmission line between Shelton and Kitsap substations as a double circuit 230-kV line within the existing right-of-way. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Tanner Electric Transmission Line.** Wash. — To build a 4.5 mile transmission line that would tie a new substation, proposed by Tanner Electric Cooperative, into an existing transmission line (owned by Puget Sound Energy). An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Telephone Flats Geothermal Project (CalEnergy).** No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on U.S. Forest Service land in the Modoc Forest. BLM has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. The final EIS (#0298) and summary are available. Call to receive a copy.

**Tucannon River Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program.** Wash. — To rear and spawn broodstock, raise their progeny and release smolts into the Tucannon River to quickly rebuild the run. A preliminary EA is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Vegetation Management Program.** Regionwide — To develop a vegetation management program while maintaining a safe and reliable transmission system. The final EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project scoping meeting — **April 11**, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Mt. Si Senior Center, 411 Main Ave.S., North Bend, Wash.

## CLOSE OF COMMENT

Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project — **April 30**

EA: Environmental Assessment, EIS: Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact, ROD: Record of Decision

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED: The Journal is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics. To order documents, call: 800-622-4520 or (503) 230-3478 (Portland). For questions/comments call: (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 800-622-4519. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. Public Involvement, Internet, E-mail address [comment@BPA.gov](mailto:comment@BPA.gov), BPA home page:<http://www.bpa.gov>