

# Journal

J A N U A R Y 1 9 9 7



## Power returned to Canada

Brian Smith, chairman of British Columbia Hydro, has signed an entity agreement with BPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to return the Canadian Entitlement. The Columbia River Treaty, signed in 1961, required three storage dams to be constructed on the Columbia River system in Canada and allowed for one in the United States. The dams help control floods in both countries and enable dams downstream in the U.S. to produce additional power. Canada and the U.S. share these downstream power benefits equally under the Treaty. Canada's share of the benefits, which includes power generated at federal and non-federal dams, is known as the Canadian Entitlement. Canada sold its share of the downstream benefits to U.S. utilities for the first thirty years of the Columbia River Treaty. Those sales expire in stages beginning in 1998. As those sales expire, the U.S. must begin to return the Entitlement to Canada. The Treaty requires BPA to build a transmission line to a point near Oliver, British Columbia, to deliver Canada's power benefits. But the recently signed entity agreement eliminates the need to build the line to Oliver and allows the Cana-

dian Entitlement to be delivered to existing transmission interconnections on the border between Canada and the U.S. near Blaine, Wash., and Nelway, British Columbia.

## Clean-up actions by Occidental and BPA improve environment

Occidental Chemical Corporation accepted responsibility for hazardous waste clean-up at right-of-way property adjacent to BPA's Tacoma, Wash., Substation. In the 1970s, the company disposed of what was then considered "clean fill" on the property. Later, the fill turned out to be contaminated with asbestos and solvents from Occidental's chlorine plant in Tacoma. Occidental, BPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology are expected to sign a legal Consent Decree affirming Occidental will pay the estimated \$2 million clean-up cost. Occidental will purchase the land from BPA and contain the hazardous waste on the site. All work is expected to be completed by summer 1997.



The Environmental Protection Agency has rewarded BPA's clean-up activities at the Eugene Starr Complex (Celilo Substation) in The Dalles, Oregon, by not listing the site on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List. BPA spent \$1.4 million to investigate and clean-up mercury from past maintenance activities at the substation. EPA has agreed that there is now no threat from mercury releases at the site and no further remedial action is necessary.

### **BPA files standards of conduct procedures with FERC**

BPA will file its procedures with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to implement the Standards of Conduct by the Jan. 3, 1997, deadline. Under the Standards of Conduct, BPA will voluntarily separate its wholesale power marketing function from its transmission system operation and reliability function. BPA is separating the two functions administratively. BPA invites public comments from Jan. 3 to Feb. 3. (See back page.) The filing is consistent with the final report of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System submitted to the four Northwest governors on Dec. 12. BPA also submitted transmission tariff terms and conditions and associated rates to FERC on Dec. 20.

### **Nez Perce Tribe purchases ancestral land for wildlife mitigation**

The Nez Perce Tribe recently purchased 10,300 acres of land in Wallowa County in northeastern Oregon. The tribe's ancestors lived in the Wallowa Valley more than 100 years ago. BPA provided funds to the tribe to purchase the land from the Trust for Public Lands. The tribe plans to acquire an additional 6,200 acres with additional funds provided by BPA. The agency is funding the \$4.5 million land purchases to mitigate for loss of wildlife habitat caused by development of the hydropower system in the Columbia River Basin. BPA will also provide funds to the tribe to manage the land for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat. The land will be accessible to the public when such access will not conflict with wildlife goals. The Northwest Power Planning Council has

included this project in its fish and wildlife mitigation program.

### **BPA and Bureau of Reclamation establish new funding agreement**

BPA will directly fund the repair and maintenance costs at nine federal hydroelectric power plants in Washington and Idaho owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The arrangement is unique among federal agencies. Prior to the new 10-year agreement, the costs were funded through appropriations to Reclamation and then repaid to the U.S. Treasury a year later from BPA revenues. The agreement will be in effect from 1997 through 2006. The funds will be used to cover the power portion of operation and maintenance costs and small capital replacement items that are directly related to power. The agreement does not cover multipurpose capital replacement items nor does it include large capital improvements or additions. A joint operating committee composed of representatives from each agency will review budgets and program expenditures as well as coordinate operation and maintenance activities on the power system.

### **NW governors appoint board to review Comprehensive Review proposal**

The Northwest's four governors appointed a four-member board to prepare a draft strategic plan to implement the final proposal of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System. The new board is called the Northwest Energy Review Transition Board. Members include John Etchart of Montana, Todd Maddock of Idaho, Mike Kriedler of Washington and Roy Hemmingway of Oregon. Etchart, Maddock and Kriedler also serve on the Northwest Power Planning Council. Hemmingway is a former council member and is now Gov. Kitzhaber's advisor on energy, fish and wildlife. The board will work closely with the Northwest's congressional delegation. The governors asked the transition board to present a plan for implementing the Comprehensive Review's proposal by mid-February 1997.

## **BPA and Air Force sign energy efficiency agreement**

BPA and Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash., have signed a 10-year agreement that will cut energy consumption at the air base. A private firm will audit the base to determine how to make the base more energy-efficient. BPA and Fairchild will identify and prioritize specific energy-efficient projects based on the audit. The agreement will help the base meet new requirements for federal agencies to reduce energy use by 30 percent by 2001.

## **NW senators and house members join Congressional committees**

Five Northwest senators have joined the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Slade Gorton of Washington, Larry Craig of Idaho, Conrad Burns of Montana, and Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, both of Oregon, will be members of the committee that oversees BPA and electric utility restructuring. Several Northwest members of the House of Representatives have joined the Committee on Resources including Peter DeFazio and Bob Smith of Oregon, Helen Chenoweth of Idaho and, from Washington, Jack Metcalf, Adam Smith and Linda Smith. The Committee on Resources oversees the nation's five federal power marketing agencies, including BPA. Another House committee, the Committee on Commerce, has jurisdiction over electricity restructuring issues. Northwest members include Elizabeth Furse of Oregon, Michael Crapo of Idaho and Rick White of Washington. Electric utility restructuring is expected to be a major issue in Congress during the next session.

## **DOE appoints task force to study reliability**

A Department of Energy task force holds its first meeting on Jan. 16, 1997, to examine technical, institutional and policy questions surrounding reliability of the nation's electric power grid. The 21-member task force will be chaired by former Congressman Philip Sharp, director of Harvard University's Institute of Politics. The task force includes members from utilities and organizations throughout the nation includ-

ing Southern California Edison Company; New England Electric System; Texas Utilities Electric; Lincoln Electric Company in Nebraska; Wisconsin Electric Power; Salt River Project in Arizona; Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation in New York; Alabama Power; Coherent Research Inc. in New York; Consolidated Hydro in Connecticut; Bechtel in California; AES Corp., an independent power producer in Virginia; Missouri Public Utility Commission; University of Virginia; PDA, Inc. in Maryland; Vermont Department of Public Service; and Economic Resources Group in Massachusetts. Three members represent national organizations including the Union of Concerned Scientists, the National Resources Defense Council and the Electric Power Research Institute.

## **Clinton nominates Pena to be new Secretary of Energy**

President Clinton on Dec. 20 nominated Federico Pena as his choice for secretary of energy. Pena was the secretary of transportation during President Clinton's first term in office. He replaces Hazel O'Leary, who resigned last year. BPA became a separate and distinct entity within DOE in 1977.

## **Harvey Spigal appointed head of BPA's Transmission Business Line**

Harvey Spigal is BPA's new senior vice president of the Transmission Business Line. He replaces Walt Pollock, who left BPA in September 1996. George Bell, who earlier announced plans to retire March 31, will continue as the business line's group vice president until his retirement. In addition, Bell will continue as the lead in the ongoing studies and analysis on transmission system reliability. The two will work in partnership to ensure a smooth transition. Chuck Meyer will take over Spigal's duties as vice president of marketing and sales for Transmission until a permanent replacement is chosen.

## **Editor's note**

The Journal is available on the internet at: <http://www.bpa.gov/BPA/CKC/journal/journalx.htm>

# public involvement

## STATUS REPORTS

**Anderson Ranch Wildlife Management Plan/EA.** South-east Idaho — Comprehensive plan to guide wildlife mitigation projects for the Anderson Ranch Dam. The preliminary EA will be available in January. Call to receive a copy.

**Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir Resident Fish Project EA.** Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Nevada — Partial mitigation for the loss of anadromous fish. The final EA will be available in January. Call to request a copy.

**BPA/Lower Valley Transmission Project.** Idaho and Wyoming — To resolve a voltage stability problem in the Jackson and Afton, Wyo. areas; new 115-kV line proposed on existing right-of-way where possible. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**BPA/PGE Transmission Support Project.** Portland Metro area, Oregon — To reinforce transmission system; new 230-kV line on existing right-of-way proposed. The final EA/FONSI is available. Call to request a copy.

**NEW! Canadian Entitlement.** Washington — The U.S. and Canada have agreed to a new alternative. A new ROD was issued in December replacing the March 1996 ROD. Call for a copy.

**Columbia Windfarm #1.** The final EIS has been completed. The ROD is on hold.

**Four Mile Hill Geothermal Project EIS (Glass Mountain).** Northern California — A geothermal power plant and 30 miles of new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service lands in the Klamath and Modoc Forests. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Grande Ronde River Spring Chinook Project.** Oregon — Captive broodstock program. The preliminary EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Hungry Horse Reservation.** The final ROD is available. Call for a copy.

**Kootenai River White Sturgeon Aquaculture Project.** Northern Idaho, Montana and Canada — Captive broodstock program. A preliminary EA is expected in February. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Methow Valley Irrigation District EA.** Northern Washington — An EA is being prepared on a proposal to convert the open canal irrigation system to pressurized pipes and wells. Call to be added to the mailing list.

**Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS.** Idaho — Supplementation of anadromous salmonids. The comment period on the draft EIS has been extended. Call for a copy. See Close of Comment.

**Northwest Regional Power Facility.** Washington — To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) is available. Call for a copy.

**Oliver Delivery Project.** Washington — This project has been canceled because the U.S. and Canada have agreed to a new alternative. See "Canadian Entitlement."

**Watershed Management Program.** Region-wide — Guidelines for funding watershed improvement projects. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to get on the mail list.

**Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS.** Region-wide — Guidelines for funding wildlife mitigation projects. The final EIS is being prepared. Call to get on the mail list.

**Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Programmatic EIS.** Washington — The Bureau of Reclamation is taking the lead on this project. BPA is a cooperating agency. A draft programmatic EIS is expected in March 1997. Delayed schedule due to reexamination of river flows and hydrology issues in overall implementation of the EIS. For further information or to be put on the mailing list, contact John Tiedeman, BOR, at (509) 575-5848 ext. 238.

## CLOSE OF COMMENT

Nez Perce Draft EIS: **Jan. 27**

FERC Standards of Conduct Procedures Filing: **Feb. 3**

● 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 230-3478 (Portland). For questions/comments, call: 230-3478 (Portland) or 800-622-4519. Address comments to: P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. BPA offices: (360) 418-8600 (Vancouver), (206) 216-4272 (Seattle), (509) 353-2515 (Spokane), (406) 329-3060 (Missoula), (509) 527-6225 (Walla Walla), (208) 334-9137 (Boise), (202) 586-5640 (Washington, D.C.). BPA Public Involvement, Internet, E-mail address: Comment@BPA.gov

