

Record of Decision for the Electrical Interconnection of Goldendale Energy Project

SUMMARY

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has decided to offer terms for integrating power from the Goldendale Energy Project (GEP) into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). BPA will offer contracts integrating power from GEP into the FCRTS for delivery to the wholesale power market. In reaching this decision, I have considered the potential environmental impacts addressed in BPA's Business Plan Environmental Impact Statement (BP EIS, DOE/EIS-0183) and a Supplement Analysis (DOE/EIS-0183/SA-03). I have also considered input from the public process for the GEP. BPA will distribute this Record of Decision (ROD) to all known interested and affected persons, Tribes, and agencies and will publish a notice of its availability in the Federal Register.

For Further Information:

Contact Thomas C. McKinney (KEC-4), Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621; phone number (503) 230-4749; fax number (503) 230-5699. For copies of the BP EIS or the Supplement Analysis, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520.

DECISION

Background:

On August 15, 1995, BPA issued a ROD adopting a market-driven business direction for participating in the evolving wholesale electric utility market, including integration of non-Federal power into the FCRTS. BPA's 1995 BP EIS ROD set basic policy direction and provided a strategy for review of subsequent actions and their adequacy of analysis within the BP EIS scope of review. The attached Supplement Analysis documents BPA's review of information in the BP EIS and provides additional site-specific information relevant to integration of power from GEP. The Supplement Analysis found that, "BPA integration of power from GEP into the FCRTS at Harvalum Substation . . . would be substantially consistent with the BP EIS, and that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns or bearing on (the) action or (its) impacts." This ROD is tiered to and incorporates BPA's 1995 BP EIS ROD.

BPA integration of power from GEP into the FCRTS at Harvalum is consistent with BPA's statutory authority to make available to all utilities any capacity in this system determined in excess to that required by the United States (16 U.S.C. 838d). In so doing, BPA shall take measures to ensure the continuing safe, reliable operation of the FCRTS.

Range of Alternatives Considered:

BPA considered no alternatives in addition to those considered in the BP EIS. This decision is consistent with the market-driven alternative selected in the BP EIS ROD.

Monitoring and Enforcement:

The City of Goldendale, in its "Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance" (October 26, 2000), and the Washington Department of Ecology, in its air quality permit (Notice of Construction Order No. 01AQCR-2037, February 23, 2001), included several conditions relevant to construction and operation of GEP and related facilities. BPA will report observed violations of these conditions to the appropriate authority for enforcement.

BPA contracts providing integration of power from GEP into the FCRTS shall include appropriate provisions for remediation of oil or other hazardous substances associated with construction and operation of related electrical facilities in a manner consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on March 20, 2001.

/s/ Stephen J. Wright _____

Stephen J. Wright

Acting Administrator and
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment:
Supplement Analysis