

Spring Operations Review Forum
Regional Conference Call
July 8, 2011
1:00 pm

Meeting materials are posted on BPA's Oversupply web page at <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/>

Kieran Connolly of BPA opened the call. The call will discuss recent oversupply conditions and will avoid violating anti-trust considerations.

Travis Togo of BPA presented the hydro operations update. Slide 2 details how Federal Columbia River Power System flood control and refill objectives have been met. Libby's summer flow target is the greater of bull trout flows or its end of August target. Hydro system flows remain high but are receding. Grand Coulee inflows listed on Slide 2 are after pumping. Slide 3 notes that Environmental Redispatch has displaced over 90,000 megawatthours of wind generation since May 18. Slide 4 lists actions taken, including that since May 21 BPA has acquired over 13,000 megawatthours of load under the Mid-C Spill Exchange agreement. Slide 5 shows weather and streamflow for July 15-21 from the climate prediction center. The map on the left shows that there is a greater than normal likelihood of cooler than normal weather in the Pacific Northwest. The map on the right shows that there is a slightly greater than normal signal of greater than average precipitation. No one had questions for Travis.

Rich Ellison of BPA presented the transmission update. Slide 7 shows outages. The Malin-Round Mountain maintenance outage was cancelled. At Celilo last week there was a valve group out of service; it is back in service as of last night. The Pacific DC intertie is at full capacity. On the Northern Intertie there are concerns in the BC Hydro balancing authority area, leading to south-to-north limits next week. Slide 8 shows capacity utilization—the overall total percentage use on paths, not just BPA's share. Slide 9 shows some derates on the California-Oregon Intertie due to planned work by PG&E and the California ISO. Availability remains about the 4000 MW level. Slide 10 shows the derates on the Northern Intertie, but capacity remains robust. Blaine Sundwall of Iberdrola asked when balancing reserves might return to normal levels. Kieran Connolly responded that BPA is looking into that question now and has no answer yet regarding amount or location.

Kieran Connolly discussed process issues. As Elliot Mainzer mentioned in the last call, and BPA sent out a message asking for feedback, it may be time to have these update calls end. The purpose was to provide a real-time chance for callers to hear information and for BPA to solicit ideas to manage oversupply conditions. The region is not out of the woods yet this year regarding overgeneration, but the frequency of ER actions should decrease. Now BPA is turning to making a broader review of the spring runoff period and pulling information together regarding lessons learned. Kieran asked for feedback.

Dave Wegener, staff for the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, in Washington DC stated his thanks and said the calls have been very helpful. He encourages BPA to prepare a summary report as to what was learned and how to move forward. Kieran Connolly responded that it is in process. Charles Pace stated that it may be premature to end the calls and that the next couple of weeks there could be concerns. Kieran Connolly thanked Dr. Pace and said that feedback will be provided to BPA's executives.

Kieran Connolly noted that BPA has been posting daily updates on operations and Environmental Redispatch. Those updates will continue when conditions warrant and there is new information to report, although likely not on a daily basis.

Kieran Connolly stated that BPA has received customer feedback through its account executives regarding submitting wind generation levels for dispatchable resources. BPA's business practice asks customers to submit minimum generation amounts for the next three months at the end of the month. BPA has received July updates, although a couple of customers provided no information at the end of June. This is not a one-time submittal—BPA wants to have minimum generation levels in and updated in case there is an overgeneration event in the coming weeks. Then BPA can act in accordance with the business practice. BPA soon will be looking at the need for submittals after July.

There were 41 participants including BPA on the call. The call ended at 1:12 pm.