

Spring Operations Review Forum
Regional Conference Call
May 6, 2011
1:00 pm

Meeting materials were posted before the call on BPA's Overgeneration web page at <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/>.

Elliot Mainzer of BPA provided an introduction to the call. The call will have the same format as in previous weeks, with no discussion of markets because of antitrust concerns; operational decisions are made at the TMT.

Steve Kerns of BPA stated that Slide 2 presents the key points regarding river operations this week. Grand Coulee will operate within a few feet of flood control elevation until it is released for refill. All reservoirs achieved their April 30 flood control elevation. McNary is occasionally spilling above fish passage requirements due to lack of turbine capacity but still remains within total dissolved gas limits (<120%). BPA sent out another request Monday seeking interest in spill agreements. Interested parties can contact Steve Kerns or Alex Spain at BPA. Slide 3 shows the weather and streamflow forecast from yesterday. It shows cool temperatures west and middle and normal temperatures in Idaho and Montana. No immediate warmup is expected; there is nothing unusual to report. The May final runoff forecast is for 128 MAF at The Dalles. Slide 4 shows load and generation for last week: cool temperatures, pretty decent load, lots of water, wind pretty active, good wind performance; we see a windy weekend ahead. Some thermal has run, up to 1,000 MW in BPA's balancing authority area. Steve Kerns asked for questions/comments.

A caller asked if BPA expects the freshet in late June early July. Steve Kerns answered that it's anybody's guess. We need to refill the reservoirs by late June or early July to comply with the bi-op. Steve Weiss of BPA noted that the Overgeneration website has an added tool, BPA's 72-hour wind forecast:
<http://transmission.bpa.gov/Business/operations/Wind/forecast/forecast.aspx>

Steve Kerns asked if there were any other questions.

Elliot Mainzer brought up the fact that there is significant thermal generation on the far eastern side of BPA's balancing authority area and asked if Steve Kerns had anything to add about that.

Steve Kerns noted the listing on the next slide of imports to the PNW from Montana.

Rich Ellison of BPA stated that BPA continues to examine planned outages and coordinate with neighboring Transmission operators on planned maintenance which impacts exports. Loading on the PDCI is up toward full capacity today due to a COI derate. Tuesday May 10th the COI will be reduced to 2900 MW north to south. The DC intertie is fully rated for the 10th, although unplanned outages such as happened yesterday

may change this situation. Yesterday there was a momentarily outage on the PDCI due to a slash burn, but it was quickly restored to full capacity. Also this week there was a PDCI scheduling limit due to concerns on the RAS DC gen drop capabilities at The Dalles Powerhouse. The Dalles gen drop availability was restored and PDCI back to full rated capacity.

The California ISO sent BPA a set of slides displaying hydro conditions in northern California, which was presented using LiveMeeting. The California ISO representative, Jazmin Pierce discussed the slides.

Rich Ellison asked about the trend for the northern California hydro average for the next few weeks, because it can drive the north to south COI derates if above 70%. Jazmin Pierce answered that the forecast is for it to remain steady at 65%. Another California ISO representative, stated that the average is likely to stay at 65%, which is the highest we've seen, although it's anybody's forecast. Jazmin Pierce finished the presentation and asked for questions. Cal ISO may impose COI North to South limits based on Northern California Hydro impacts.

A caller asked how others can have access to those slides. Jazmin Pierce answered that she and others at the California ISO need to confirm the numbers and then will send the slides to BPA. Elliot Mainzer said that Nita Burbank will contact Jazmin Pierce, and BPA will post the presentation on the Overgeneration website once it is final.

A total of 83 callers participated. The call ended at 1:25 pm.