

Spring Operations Review Forum
Conference Call
April 15, 2011
1 – 2 p.m.

BPA posted meeting materials before the call on BPA's Overgeneration web page at http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/Spring_Ops_Call_Handout_15_APR_2011.ppt.

Elliot Mainzer, BPA Corporate Strategy, provided an introduction to the call and reminded attendees that the purpose of these calls is to discuss operating conditions on the system this week. They will not focus on market influences and do not serve as a decisionmaking forum.

Steve Kerns of BPA stated that his presentation would be a recap from last week. He talked through Slide 2, key points. Grand Coulee Dam is being operated aggressively to reach its end-of-April final flood control level. Pacific Northwest loads have been higher than average due to low temperatures. Fish passage operations started at Lower Columbia projects April 10. Lack of market spill occurred March 30-April 12 in Light Load Hours. The likelihood of having to spill above the 120% total dissolved gas (TDG) level is low for the next several days. Moving on to Slide 3, BPA's actions to manage overgeneration: Grand Coulee draft is being managed aggressively. Intermittent lack of market spill up to 120% of TDG has occurred. BPA asked the Columbia Generating Station nuclear plant to begin its refueling outage a few days early. Slide 3 lists weather and streamflow conditions: Streamflows diminished this week due to cooler temperatures, which are expected to persist through the next week at least. Above-average precipitation is falling as snow in the mountains. The snowpack is not ready to melt, although lower elevation snow could start melting if there is warming. Wind increases each time a front passes, every 2-3 days.

The facilitator requested questions. There were none.

Rich Ellison, BPA Transmission, provided a transmission update; see Slide 5. BPA has been aggressively looking at upcoming planned transmission maintenance outages and wherever reliability concerns have allowed have moved outages out of the May and June timeframe which impact BPA export capabilities. BPA's goal is to maximize California-Oregon Intertie (COI), Pacific Direct Current Intertie (PDCI), Northern Intertie export capabilities and still perform required maintenance. An upcoming outage may occur April 23 and 24 as PG&E performs COI AC RAS service/testing. BPA is working closely with PG&E and the California ISO regarding this possibility. While recent COI flows have decreased during Heavy Load Hours (HLH) the Northern Intertie South to North exports have remained fairly loaded.

The facilitator again requested questions. A representative of the California ISO said that in moving outages on the COI to later in the year, BPA should not push outages to the summer when California loads are peaking. Rich Ellison stated that significant outages

have been moved to the October timeframe, and BPA is cognizant of California's summer needs. BPA is working with the California ISO.

Elliot Mainzer asked if there were any further comments or questions from the California ISO or other parties in California. BPA wants to work collaboratively for potential optimization of capability. Another representative of California ISO stated that the California ISO is also waiting to see if PG&E will be testing next week.

Elliot Mainzer stated that BPA has initiated outreach with telephone conversations to non-federal hydro systems in the region. Kevin Nordt with Grant County PUD sent out a questionnaire to other parties regarding displacing hydro generation, seeking to encourage analysis. If others want Kevin to contact them, they should email him or the TechForum.

Steve Oliver of BPA noted that once information is available from Kevin, parties can develop a spill agreement to move spill from BPA to other systems in the region.

Elliot Mainzer again asked for questions/comments. There were none.

Elliot Mainzer summed up the meeting by saying its purpose is to provide information regarding current operations and what BPA is doing to prevent emergency redispatch. It is also an opportunity for others to share ideas to alleviate this type of situation. Are there any further comments? There was no further input.

Elliot Mainzer stated that any other issues or information can be provided through the TechForum address. He thanked attendees and said the call will be held again next week.

The facilitator noted that an attendee wished to speak. Dmitri Palmateer of Senator Merkley's office stated that he was on the call. Elliot Mainzer thanked him and said please provide us any information you can.

Approximately 99 callers participated in the call.