

**Spring Operations Review Forum  
Conference Call  
April 29, 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 a brief introduction to the call. He cautioned participants to refrain from discussing topics related to markets and market operations because of anti-trust considerations. Decisions regarding operations will continue to be made in the Regional Forum Technical Management Team (TMT).

Steve Kerns of BPA talked through slides 2-4. All reservoirs are operating for flood control. Grand Coulee is within a foot of its flood control elevation (FCE) and should reach it in a day or so; Grand Coulee will continue to operate close to FCE until released for refill. The federal system has had no lack-of-market/lack-of-demand spill in the last 2.5 weeks. Lower Granite and McNary are spilling above their fish passage requirements due to lack of turbine capacity, but total dissolved gas (TDG) levels are below 120 percent. There are no overgeneration conditions on the system at present. The weather will be warming and drying, especially in the southern part of the basin, next week. Snow (i.e. freezing elevations) levels are forecast to rise starting Sunday. Temperatures should be close to normal soon. The May earlybird forecast is for 128 MAF, up one MAF from the mid-month forecast.

Elliot Mainzer asked if anyone had a question for Steve Kerns. A representative from Grant County Public Utility District asked whether BPA has considered or discussed drafting Grand Coulee lower, below FCE, so when runoff comes, there is more room for storage. Steve Kerns responded that the Bureau of Reclamation said it would draft for fish flow or flood control needs but not any other reason. There are non-power needs at Grand Coulee such as a ferry and cultural resources that are reasons for maintaining the FCE. Charles Pace asked whether it is BPA's position that the Bi-Op addressed consultation requirements for overgeneration and wind integration. Elliot Mainzer responded that there was no one on the call today who could provide an answer. Kurt Lynam of BPA said he will coordinate a response.

Rich Ellison of BPA reported on Transmission operations. Loading was light last weekend, with heavier loading Monday and Tuesday. None of the BPA monitored Paths or flowgates were near their system operating limits (SOL), and no curtailments were considered. Loading dropped off starting Wednesday. The outlook is for minimal derates on the interties through next weekend; loading looks to continue last weeks trend with moderate temperatures forecasted. BPA made a push to rearrange May-June outages and, cognizant of other entities' heavy load July-August, found times in fall and early winter for these outages. Everything is looking good (he said, knocking on wood).

Elliot Mainzer asked if anyone had a question for Rich Ellison. There were none.

Elliot Mainzer asked if anyone was on the line from the California Independent System Operator (ISO). Keoni Almeida, California ISO, stated that he had no report. Steve Kerns asked if runoff had started for the northern California hydro. Keoni said he had no information on that but would try to have some information for the next call, May 6. A representative with Avista asked whether high California runoff affects imports from the Northwest. The answer from a BPA person was that if there is a potential for overgeneration, high runoff in California limits north-to-south sales. Rich Ellison elaborated that representatives from the California ISO met with BPA last week and said that the northern California hydro should not play a major role—it is not above the level that would lead to significant north-to-south limits. Any derate of the COI would be less than 10 percent. Another caller asked if there would be any impact on the DC inertia. Rich Ellison answered that only the COI north-to-south limit would be affected.

Steve Kerns updated the attendees on the pending spill exchange agreements. BPA had a call yesterday with hydro resource owners interested in spill exchange agreements (the FCRPS would provide energy, and other hydro resources would spill). BPA plans to distribute the spill exchange agreement by noon Monday. Elliot Mainzer said thanks are due to Kevin Nordt of Grant for facilitating.

Elliot Mainzer again asked for comments or questions. A caller asked about Slide 4, the bullet that says snow levels are low now and will rise starting Sunday. Steve Kerns responded that he is aware that there is a lot of low-level snow, which could melt quickly if the weather warms up. A brief discussion followed in which the caller pointed out that the wording of the slide is ambiguous and BPA noted that low or high snow levels refers to elevation, not the actual depth of the snowpack.

Ken Dragoon asked if BPA has a forecast for wind generation. Steve Kerns responded that BPA's forecast is for 3 days into the future. Ken Dragoon asked if that forecast could be included in the meeting materials. Steve Kerns responded that BPA will discuss that possibility.

A caller asked if there are any updates on Environmental Redispatch, including the status of the record of decision. Elliot Mainzer responded that there is no need for ER so far, but if there is, BPA will issue and implement the record of decision. BPA is hoping ER will not be needed.

A caller asked if BPA had an update on generation imbalance. Steve Kerns responded that, as noted on slide 2, the net accumulated generation imbalance is 24,500 MWh. That amount is primarily from the first 10 days of April, after which the imbalance was relatively stable. A caller asked what the significance of the imbalance is—why is it tracked? Steve Kerns responded that wind overgeneration translates 1-1 into spill if BPA is not able to store the extra energy. The imbalance should cancel to zero, but in April that is not happening. Elliot Mainzer added that the topic is worth a longer conversation. We have seen a tightening of forecast accuracy.

Rich Ellison observed that station control error of wind overgeneration at this moment is 348 MW, then 339 MW. Steve Kerns noted that it exhibits lots of volatility. Rich Ellison stated that wind nameplate is at 3500 and generation reached over 3200 this week.

Elliot Mainzer stated that slide 5 shows that thermal generation varies with wind generation and currently is quite limited

A caller from Northwest Energy Coalition noted that thermal generation decreases in the late evening for a few hours—is that due to BPA having a put option? Steve Kerns stated that low temperatures encourage thermal generation to increase during the morning peak, and this diurnal shape of thermal generation has nothing to do with contracts that we have signed. The caller noted that prices are low in the light load hours. He questioned how the derating process works for the COI, because it changes every day or two. Rich Ellison responded that outages are in process all the time it is rare during the Spring timeframe, that for COI concerns, the System is at “all lines in service.” Some of the studies from these outages require derates of SOL these studies and derates can occur on all Paths or flowgates whether internal or external to the BPA. If maintenance activities or unscheduled outages occur on the south side of the COI, South of Malin and Captain Jack, then the COI SOL is set by the Cal ISO. Some of the gradual changes to the SOL occur even during times of “all lines in service” the COI nomogram may make deductions from the 4800MW limit for different system conditions i.e. Equivalent units, Hemingway- Summer lake flows, and others. Contact Rich Ellison for more detail.

A caller asked about slide 2’s statement of TDG being below 120 percent: is this for the forebay or the tailrace? Steve Kerns responded that BPA uses the Washington TDG standard; certain websites display forebay and tailrace numbers—this may be shown on the TMT website.

A caller from EWEB stated that he was not able to log into the presentation. Were the slides posted? Nita Burbank responded that they were posted before the meeting and that Kurt Lynam of BPA will be talking further about the website.

Kurt Lynam described how the overgeneration project website has a new look. The goal is to frontload new information that BPA has available. The website includes assessment tools from open source websites for current wind, hydro, and thermal generation; transmission pathways; and a NOAA weather forecast. Updates have been sent out to subscribers to the overgeneration project mailing list, including instructions for signing up on the website. The update for each week’s call will be uploaded and can be found under current information. Notes and handouts from previous meetings are available on a separate page, linked from the main page.

Robert from Seattle stated that it is difficult to determine from the website what is new versus older documents. Maybe BPA could put the date of the document next to its name or on the document itself. Kurt Lynam thanked him for this suggestion.

There were 21<sup>1</sup> participants including BPA on the call. We will have a complete number of callers at a later date. The call ended at 1:30 pm.

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<sup>1</sup> Some participants may have hung up before the attendance was checked.  
Spring Operations Review Forum Notes  
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