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Hungry Horse power available

Bonneville Power Administration

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HELENA, Mont. -- The Bonneville Power Administration has notified Montana utilities that wholesale electric power from the Hungry Horse Reservation will be available on Oct. 1, 1996. The Hungry Horse Reservation was established by the Hungry Horse Dam Act (P.L. 78-329), as amended, which gives geographical preference to the state of Montana for a portion of the power generated at Hungry Horse Dam.

The power has become available for redistribution because the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. has terminated its 1981 power sales contract and entered into a new five-year power sales contract with BPA which will take effect on Oct. 1, 1996.

"We at BPA see this as an opportunity made possible by the deregulation of the wholesale electricity market," said C. T. Beede, BPA account executive for Montana. "Signing the new contract with Columbia Falls helps to insure BPA's future financial stability and opens the door for long-term sales agreements with other Montana customers."

In offering the freed-up power, BPA must give first priority to Montana preference customers. These are nonprofit cooperatives or public bodies that by law have priority access to federally generated power. Any power not purchased by preference customers can then be offered to nonpreference customers in Montana.

BPA plans to offer the power to Montana utilities in the following order: western Montana preference customers; eastern Montana preference customers; Montana nonpreference customers; and preference customers within the rest of the Pacific Northwest region.

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