



Public celebration marks fourth federal Superfund site removed from National Priorities List

Bonneville Power Administration

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VANCOUVER, Wash. — It is a list no one wants to be a part of, so when BPA was cleared from it, there was cause for celebration. That is exactly what happened today as representatives from BPA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Washington State Department of Ecology and the local community gathered to mark the removal of the Ross Complex from the federal Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

The Ross Complex is a 250-acre regional operations, maintenance and storage facility owned by BPA, the Northwest's federal wholesale power marketer. The site was originally placed on the NPL in 1989 after ground water samples tested positive for traces of solvents — solvents that appeared to be heading for the City of Vancouver's ground water (the investigation later determined that this contamination did not pose risk to the city's water supply). Additional hazardous areas were discovered in the Superfund investigation, and were targeted for clean-up.

Now, the site is considered a Superfund milestone: BPA, with cooperation from state and other federal agencies, was able to get the Ross Complex off the NPL in a fraction of the time and a fraction of the cost of other Superfund sites.

"The partnership between BPA, EPA and the state was a key factor in why the Superfund process worked so well at this site," said Fred Hansen, EPA Deputy Administrator. "EPA appreciates the cooperative attitude displayed by BPA, and the agency should be commended for its commitment to clean up the environment."

Jack Robertson, BPA Deputy Administrator, said this unique partnership was the foundation for the Superfund clean-up success, and that innovative investigation and clean-up measures employed at the site furthered that success.

"We used methods that were less costly than their alternatives, but methods that also produced good results," Robertson said.

One such method used an impervious cap to safely contain a large pit where old electrical equipment containing hazardous PCBs had been thrown out. This method saved ratepayers more than \$1.8 million.

"Cleaning up the site was our primary concern, but so was doing it cost-effectively," said Tony Morrell, the Ross Superfund project manager. "Since BPA is a federal agency, we weren't able to get federal funds to pay for the cleanup. We had to rely on ratepayer dollars. Whenever we're spending ratepayers

dollars, we make sure we get as much as we can for every dollar spent.î

BPA was created by Congress in 1937 to market and transmit power produced at Bonneville Dam. Today, BPA markets power from 29 federal dams and one non-federal nuclear plant in the Pacific Northwest, and has built one of the largest and most reliable transmission systems in the United States. BPAís service territory includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, western Montana and small parts of Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, California and eastern Montana. BPA is a self-funding federal agency. It covers its costs through the sale of electricity.

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