



Robertson named acting BPA Administrator

Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. - John S. Robertson officially became the acting administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration Oct. 1. Robertson, 48, has been BPA deputy administrator since August 1987. He will remain in the post until the Clinton administration names a permanent administrator. There is no announced timeframe for the selection.

Robertson promised to keep up the momentum of adapting BPA to a newly deregulated market, including cost cutting and efficiency efforts. He pledged to continue progress toward instituting recommendations made by a regional panel convened in 1996 by the four Northwest governors.

“As one of the key stewards of the Columbia River, BPA has a significant role in providing public benefits to the Northwest through low-cost, reliable power. But we are equally dedicated to long-term enhancement of the Northwest environment, including measurable results in fish and wildlife returns, habitat protection and development of renewables and energy efficiency,” he said.

At BPA, Robertson has been a staunch advocate of working to retain the benefits of the Columbia hydropower system for the Northwest. His leadership in securing a 1995 fish and wildlife agreement with the Clinton administration served to stabilize costs as well as provide guaranteed funding to fish and wildlife for five years. Robertson also has taken the lead in establishing sovereign-to-sovereign relationships between BPA and Northwest Indian Tribes and sparked regional interest in an Eco-trust fund that could be used to fund future fish and wildlife restoration projects in the Northwest.

Robertson also holds a seat on the Presidential Commission on Water Policy, a bipartisan panel directed to develop a new approach to basin and watershed governance. He was appointed to the commission in 1993.

Robertson graduated from Stanford University in 1972 and the Stanford Executive Program at the Graduate School of Business in 1990.

In 1973, Robertson began working for the House of Representatives and then for U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon. He served as senior policy advisor and director of communications for Sen. Hatfield from 1973 until 1982. His BPA career began with an appointment to the position of assistant to the administrator for external affairs.

Robertson lives in Portland with his wife Debra and their son Nicholas. He plays piano and writes screenplays in his spare time.

BPA generates \$2.5 billion annually by marketing low-cost, clean electricity from federal hydroelectric plants in the Columbia River Basin and one non-federal nuclear plant and from transmission rates charged to users of BPA's high-voltage transmission system. In addition to power and transmission benefits, the agency has invested more than \$2.5 billion since 1980 in efforts to restore endangered salmon runs in the Columbia and its tributaries, and helped the region research and develop renewable resources such as wind, methane-fueled and geothermal projects.

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