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Retiring BPA executive selected for post on DOE Permanent Engineering Board

Bonneville Power Administration

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For more information contact:

Sharon Blair, BPA, skblair@bpa.gov, 503-230-7390

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Department of Energy's Permanent Engineering Board gained a new member in late January when acting Secretary of Energy Charles Curtis appointed George Bell, a senior vice president at the Bonneville Power Administration, as an alternate member. Bell will retire from BPA on March 28th with 32 years of federal service under his belt.

In his current position at BPA, Bell manages more than 1,900 employees in the agency's transmission services department. Bell's years of service have included work as a design engineer, equal employment opportunity officer, head of BPA's Washington, D.C., office, chief of management services, and manager of the Lower Columbia Area.

Bell's new post will involve serving as an advisor to the DOE on technical and operational issues related to the Columbia River Treaty. The board was established in 1964 to ensure that the Columbia and Kootenai Rivers are operated to yield the most flood control and power, within agreed limits, and to prepare reports on water flows, compliance with the Treaty and any deviations from operating plans.

"We certainly don't want to see George leave BPA, but we're very happy to see he will continue to utilize his extensive industry skills and knowledge in the Northwest," said Randy Hardy, BPA Administrator and CEO. "George is very talented and will serve the board well."

Bell was also recently bestowed another honor: Recognizing his years of dedicated federal service, as well as his volunteer commitment to his community's arts and cultural activities, Portland, Ore., Mayor Vera Katz proclaimed Feb. 27 as "[George Bell Day](#)." In her proclamation, Katz recognized Bell's "long distinguished service at the Bonneville Power Administration" and "praised the contributions of the strong...men and women who have paved the road of opportunity for all."

The Permanent Engineering Board consists of four permanent and four alternate members from the U.S. and Canada, through the Army Corps of Engineers and Washington Area Power Administration. Bell replaces Tom Weaver of WAPA.

The Columbia River Treaty led to the construction of four dams — three in Canada and one in the U.S. — to control floods and enable downstream dams to produce more power. Canada and the U.S. share

downstream power benefits equally under the Treaty.

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