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MEDIA ADVISORY:
***Meeting will address strategy for spreading power benefits from the
Columbia River***

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PORTLAND, Ore – How can the Northwest share the benefits of low-cost power from the Columbia River? That's the question Northwest leaders will try to answer at a meeting:

Tuesday, September 29, 9:00a.m.–4:30p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel - Jantzen Beach (Mt. St. Helens Ballroom), Portland, Ore.

Judi Johansen, administrator for the Bonneville Power Administration, will begin the meeting by describing a long-term strategy for distributing a finite supply of hydropower to homes, small farm consumers, public utilities and BPA's large industrial customers.

Panelists from industry, interest groups, tribes, regulators and utilities will debate how well the proposal meets their expectations for low rates, as well as energy conservation and salmon recovery funded by BPA.

Former congressman Al Swift (D. – Wash.) will talk about how to keep major decisions controlling the Columbia River in the Northwest and out of the halls of Congress. Swift was a key legislator in the rise and implementation of the last act governing the Columbia River: the 1980 Northwest Power Act.

Representatives from the governors of Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington will close discussion with what their states would want from the federal Columbia River power system.

BPA's proposal aims to strike a balance, while keeping BPA's rates at cost and below what others in the power market charge. BPA will take comments on the proposal to Oct. 23.

Customers and BPA are scheduled to begin negotiating contracts in mid-November using the proposal's principles. Contracts would begin in 2001 and run through 2006.

Columbia River Power and Benefits Conference

September 29, 1998; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m

DoubleTree Hotel - Jantzen Beach

Mt. St. Helens Ballroom

AGENDA

8:00a.m.

Registration.

8:45am

Honor guard. Northwest Indian Veterans' Association

9:00am

"BPA's proposal for the future" – BPA Administrator Judi Johansen.

9:45am

"Availability of the Federal Columbia River Power System" – Panelists from public utility commissions, utilities, cities, tribes and industries

10:45am

Open mike. Comments and conversation with the panelists on the proposal.

11:30am

"Summary thoughts about the proposal" – Judi Johansen

11:45am

"Twenty years after the Act" – Former Washington Congressman Al Swift

1:00pm

"Issues of the proposal" – Panelists from utilities and interest groups.

1:00pm

Stranded costs.

1:40pm

Conservation and renewables.

2:20pm

Fish funding tools.

3:00pm

"What the region wants from the Federal Columbia River Power System" – Review of the proposal by representatives from the Governors' transition board: John Etchart, Todd Maddock, Marilyn Showalter, John Savage.

3:45pm

Final open mike.

4:00pm

"Retaining regional control" – BPA Administrator Judi Johansen.

4:30pm

Honor guard. Northwest Indian Veterans' Association.

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