## *NEWS RELEASE:*
## *BPA computer program wins national energy efficiency award*
***Software helps industries quickly and cheaply analyze savings from potential uses of adjustable speed drivers***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**
**FRIDAY, March 27, 1998**
PR 19 98

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**PORTLAND**, **Ore.** – Northwest industries that use large motors – and that means just about all of them –have something to gain from a Bonneville Power Administration computer program that just garnered a national energy efficiency award.

The Electric Power Research Institute on March 23 presented BPA with its annual national End-Use Leadership Award for achievement in energy efficiency. The award recognizes a software package that BPA developed and now offers nationally through EPRI and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The software, ASDMaster, analyzes motor loads to determine whether an adjustable speed drive (ASD) would lead to energy savings and other benefits, and if so, which kind of adjustable speed drive would best meet that particular need.

"This is a tremendous tool," said Martin Sheeran of Benton Public Utility District in Kennewick, Wash. Sheeran tested the ASDMaster and found it was by far the best he's ever seen for ASD development."

Adjustable speed drives are solid-state electronic devices that give motors computer programmable control. ASDs can greatly improve energy efficiency and overall plant productivity by matching motor speed to the varying requirements of an industrial process.

"ASDs can offer great benefits, but they can also cause problems with existing motors and with power quality. This program helps industries select the right speed drive for each task," said BPA's Karl Vischer, who developed the program and accepted the award for the agency.

As part of the project, BPA and EPRI talked to a number of companies in the Pacific Northwest and learned that ASDs often deliver more benefits than expected. Burlington Northern Railroad, for example, estimates it saves $54,000 a year by applying ASDs in the ventilation system at the eight-mile long Cascade tunnel in Washington. The payback period for motors and ASDs in that case was about five months.

Other recent users of the ASDMaster program include Weyerhaeuser, Boeing and Snohomish County

PUD.

"ASDMaster has the potential to make energy savings a reality for hundreds of companies that otherwise couldn't plow through the analysis on their own," Vischer said. "The analysis needed to evaluate adjustable speed drives can be complex. This software makes it a lot simpler."

ASDMaster is available from BPA at 1-800-973-7479, from EPRI at Website www.epriasdo.com or from the DOE Motor Challenge Hotline at 1-800-862-2086. The software costs $100 to $250. Training is available. Similar tools have been developed to analyze potential applications of air compressors (AirMaster) and to select energy efficient motors.

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