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BPA nears completion on Year 2000 testing for electrical system

Bonneville Power Administration

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, January 5, 1999
PR 01 99**

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Note: there is a [fact sheet](#) associated with this news release. In addition, BPA publishes a [quarterly newsletter](#) on its Y2K effort. For more information, visit [BPA's Y2K Web site](#)

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration is confident it will be ready for the year 2000. The federal agency is on target for completing Year 2000 (Y2K) testing on its systems early this year. These tests show that the backbone of the Pacific Northwest's electrical system – BPA's 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission line – will continue to operate reliably and safely through the year 2000 and beyond.

Click on the photos below for larger views.

BPA's testing and remediation program is thorough and will be completed by March 31, 1999, months before the year 2000 and other key dates. BPA's technical staff began working on Y2K in 1995. The program involves identifying and testing automated systems; replacing, upgrading or discontinuing those systems with Y2K problems; and contingency planning.

"We are taking Y2K very seriously," BPA's Chief Information Officer Joe O'Rourke said. "Besides testing our own systems, we are working with our business partners, customers and generation suppliers to provide reliable service on the Pacific Northwest's largest high-voltage transmission system."

O'Rourke reported that in the highly unlikely event that automated systems don't work, the agency can operate them manually. "We're confident that we are anticipating the full



Bonneville electrical engineer Jon Daume tests equipment for Y2K readiness.



Ken Ballou, an electrical engineer at BPA's Ross Complex in Vancouver, Wash.,

range of likely outcomes and making timely and thorough preparations for them," O'Rourke said.

A cross-agency team created BPA's year 2000 readiness program with five essential elements for success. They include using a methodical process to find and fix Y2K problems, increasing routine scrutiny on critical systems for transmission reliability, coordinating with entities that have significant effect on transmission, developing contingency plans for operating the transmission system and developing comprehensive emergency plans.

performs Y2K tests on metering devices.



Jon Daume is one of a team of BPA engineers who are type testing equipment in anticipation of Jan. 1, 2000.

BPA is committed to regionwide awareness for Y2K issues. The agency will participate in the Year 2000 Expo scheduled for Jan. 30 and 31 at the Washington State Trade and Convention Center in Seattle. BPA strongly supports the Year 2000 Expo's goal of bringing communities together to address Y2K. The expo involves private businesses, community groups, churches, government agencies and many others in a public venue where they can share and discuss reliable information about Y2K. BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington Public Power Supply System and Northwest Public Power Association are also planning a Y2K Symposium for April 1999.

For more information about BPA's Year 2000 Readiness Program visit the BPA Web site at www.bpa.gov or call 800-622-4520. BPA technical staff continues to test equipment in the agency's laboratories. If reporters are interested in seeing the tests performed, they should call Crystal Ball at (503) 230-5133.

BPA is a federal agency, under the U.S. Department of Energy, that markets wholesale hydroelectric power from the 29 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. BPA owns and operates about three-quarters of the Pacific Northwest's total transmission capacity. BPA customers include publicly owned and investor-owned utilities, as well as some large industries.

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