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Flathead Electric to buy BPA environmentally preferred power

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Kalispell, Mont. – The board of trustees of Flathead Electric Cooperative announced today it has agreed to purchase a block of power equal to 1 megawatt per hour of environmentally preferred power from the Bonneville Power Administration.

Environmentally preferred power (EPP) is electricity generated by renewable, environmentally acceptable and sustainable energy sources. Bonneville's EPP comes from wind and small hydroelectric generating sources.

"Flathead Electric's goal is to give our customers a choice of energy that is generated by environmentally preferred resources," said Warren McConkey, FEC's general manager. "This agreement demonstrates our commitment to provide the option so our customers will have that choice."

Flathead Electric's customers will be able to state on their bills what percentage of their electrical service they want to be environmentally preferred. Bill-stuffer notices will be mailed in August or September.

The power sale agreement was signed June 22. Power delivery begins no later than October 1, 1999, and will continue through September 2001.

"BPA appreciates Flathead Electric's confidence in our product," said BPA account executive C.T. Beede. "We look forward to working with Flathead Electric to illustrate the viability of renewable and environmentally preferred resources in the region."

Flathead Electric intends to make these resources available to its members beginning August 1999. "We believe that the demand is here in the Flathead Valley and that this program will offer an opportunity to our members to demonstrate their commitment to the environment," said McConkey.

BPA has sold 20 average megawatts of environmentally preferred power over the last three years. In 1996 Salem Electric in Salem, Ore., bought 6.5 average megawatts of EPP, and, in 1998, BPA sold three average megawatts to Emerald People's Utility District of Eugene, Ore. Earlier this year, BPA sold 10 average megawatts to Snohomish County Public Utility District and 0.5 average megawatts to Orcas Power and Light Cooperative. Both utilities are located in Washington.

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