



BPA proposes stable power rates for five years

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Bonneville Power Administration
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PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) today proposed its new wholesale electricity rates for the 2002 – 2006 rate period. If adopted early next year after extensive public hearings, average rates would remain at the current level.

“By reducing costs and by avoiding large purchases of new power supplies, BPA plans to hold the line on wholesale power rates,” said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen. “Even more important, we aim to cover a wide range of costs associated with saving salmon and meet our obligations to the U.S. Treasury.”

Although there would be little change in the standard power rate BPA charges to its utility customers, rates for specific customers depend on several variables. Power costs would vary somewhat, depending on the mix of products and services they buy from BPA and other technical factors. These choices are coming as a result of deregulation.

BPA’s proposal begins a five-month public process in which customers, interest groups and other stakeholders can comment on BPA’s power rates proposal. After receiving and considering public input, the BPA administrator publishes a record of decision that includes the final power rates. The power rates will not include the cost of transmission service. A separate transmission rate process will begin next year.

BPA’s proposal comes during a time of great uncertainty in the electric utility industry nationwide. Low, stable rates are an economic catalyst for the Northwest economy since much of the region’s productivity depends on an affordable and plentiful supply of electricity. The low rates also provide an incentive for customers to sign long-term contracts to help ensure that BPA will be able to fund public benefits such as fish and wildlife enhancements, and programs promoting conservation and renewables.

Johansen said: “We set out to achieve four purposes that were consistent with the governors’ Regional Review: Spread the benefits of the federal hydro system as broadly as possible within existing law, with special attention given to residential customers in the region; avoid rate increases; meet our fish and wildlife obligations without missing a Treasury payment; and keep the region’s pursuit of energy conservation and renewable resource development on track. These rates deliver on those purposes.”

Public hearings are scheduled in the following Northwest cities, places to be announced:

Date	Location
September, 30, 1999, Thursday	Field Hearing #1: Idaho Falls
October 4, 1999, Monday	Field Hearing #2: Tri Cities
October 5, 1999, Tuesday	Field Hearing #3: Missoula
October 6, 1999, Wednesday	Field Hearing #4: Spokane
October 7, 1999, Thursday	Field Hearing #5: Everett
October 12, 1999, Tuesday	Field Hearing #6: Olympia
October 13, 1999, Wednesday	Field Hearing #7: Eugene
October 14, 1999, Thursday	Field Hearing #8: Portland

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[Power Rate Case web page](#)
