

[in the news](#)[home](#) [site search](#) [org chart](#) [contact us](#) [web comments](#)

MIDNIGHT TEST PROVIDES UTILITY SECTOR WITH HEIGHTENED STATE OF Y2K-READINESS

Energy Secretary Richardson Receives Results of Nationwide 9/9/99 Drill

[Click here for other BPA news releases](#)

Department Of Energy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, September 9, 1999

CONTACTS: Matthew Donoghue, 202/586-5806 Natalie Wymer, 888/436-5497

With U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson closely monitoring, about 500 utilities passed another Y2K milestone at midnight as power continued to flow to millions of consumers.

"The 9/9/99 drill provided us with an opportunity to assess our readiness with just over 100 days left until the Year 2000," Secretary Richardson said. "While the nationwide test went smoothly and contingency plans, including back-up communications systems, appeared in order, it is imperative that the utility sector continues to be diligent in testing."

About 15,000 North American workers including system operators, substation and power plant personnel, spent the day testing their operating, communications, administrative and contingency plans. The drills simulated as realistically as possible the actual rollover on December 31. Some utility generation and transmission equipment are dependent on computer systems. No failures or problems were reported.

Richardson participated in the midnight drill at the department's Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) facility in Vancouver, Washington. BPA owns and operates one of the nation's largest high-voltage transmission grids. About 15,000 circuit miles of transmission line network across 300,000 square miles of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and sections of Wyoming, Nevada, Utah and California.

The Energy Department also conducted Y2K drills on more than 400 mission critical computer systems at 42 sites in Washington and across the nation. No failures or problems were identified during the test.

- DOE -