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U.S. power marketing agency to share expertise with Sri Lankan utility

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Sri Lanka's electric utility is working with the U.S. Department of Energy's Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to see if American utility expertise can help promote a market-based, environmentally low-impact approach to energy system operation on the island nation.

BPA will work with the United States Energy Association (USEA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement a two-year partnership with the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) of Sri Lanka.

The partnership agreement, signed today, allows the BPA and CEB to share expertise in regulatory agency and utility management including restructuring; finance and accounting; independent power production and marketing; bulk power operations and dispatching; power system operations and control; energy management systems; utility telecommunications; transmission system operations, control and development; strategic planning; and customer service.

For decades, BPA has provided its comprehensive electric utility development, management and operations expertise to governments across the world to improve electric systems as a matter of U.S. policy. BPA has assisted utilities in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean improve reliability, implement energy efficiency, transition to market-based electricity pricing and improve fiber optics use on transmission systems. The CEB partnership is the first USEA-type agreement BPA has signed with a foreign country.

"We're delighted to work with CEB," said Michael Hoffman, BPA's international market lead. "Under this partnership, BPA and CEB will exchange operating experience. Both utilities will be learning new ideas, which will benefit the utilities and communities of both partners."

BPA is a federal power marketing agency founded by an act of the United States Congress in 1937. Its principal mission is to market wholesale electrical power and operate and market transmission services in the Pacific Northwest. BPA is a self-funding agency, which pays for its costs through power and transmission sales. Both power and transmission are sold at cost, and BPA repays any borrowing from the U.S. Treasury with interest. BPA's 1999 revenues were \$2.3 billion.

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