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The power behind PGE's wind program: BPA

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Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The power behind PGE's wind program: BPA

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Portland General Electric's new renewable energy program is being powered by the Bonneville Power Administration.

BPA and PGE signed a unique wind power purchase agreement that will supply the energy PGE is using to fuel its recently announced Clean WindSM Power program. The agreement specifies that the power supplying PGE's wind program come from a new Northwest wind resource.

BPA currently is looking at possible wind projects in Oregon, Washington or elsewhere in the Northwest that assure minimal environmental impacts and anticipates announcing at least one new wind project later this year.

"This agreement really heralds the advent of the wind energy age," said Dennis Oster, a BPA account executive who works with PGE. "The combination of increasing customer demand for truly environmentally friendly, renewable resources and the steadily dropping development costs of new wind farms is making this deal, as well as others like it, increasingly doable."

Just five years ago building a wind farm would cost \$50 to \$60/megawatthour Oster said. Today, that cost is down to \$30 to \$40 and dropping. Utilities are beginning to see the possibility of getting a decent return on a true renewable investment. So they are more interested in looking at wind power agreements as viable opportunities.

BPA's environmentally preferred power program is being expanded to include a number of clean energy technologies, including wind power, solar and endorsed existing small hydroelectric resources. A growing number of utilities that buy power from BPA have stepped up to participate. Last week, BPA announced an environmentally preferred power sale with Tacoma Power. The Tacoma agreement is the ninth BPA environmentally preferred agreement. BPA has sold nearly 22 megawatts of environmentally preferred power.

As more retail customers say they'd be willing to pay a bit more to support wind, solar or other alternative energy resources, BPA has committed to use all of the premiums it collects from these power sales for additional investments in new renewable resources.

Utility interest comes about because of consumer awareness and concern over global warming and the

environment, according to Angus Duncan, president of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation that has worked with BPA to sell its environmentally preferred power.

"We're seeing a growing wave of interest in this kind of energy," Duncan said. "The tide is turning in favor of these new renewables - wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass. Technology is making it easier and less costly to build these resources. People are willing to pay more to get energy that is easier on the earth. Look for more deals coming from us and our partners in the near future."

The Foundation receives an endorsement fee from the purchasing utility once it signs an agreement with BPA. In return the utility may use the endorsement of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the NW Energy Alliance and the Renewable NW Project in its consumer marketing. The Foundation uses the endorsement fee for renewable power development and to fund fish and wildlife habitat projects located throughout the Northwest.

BPA's agreement with PGE is flexible and can be expanded as PGE gets more customers to participate in the Clean WindSM program. So far, the outlook is good. Nearly 2,500 customers have signed up for the programs.

"Portlanders are pretty environmentally conscious," Oster said. "I think they will take on this opportunity because of concern for the land, air and water and because they believe that working together they can make a difference."

PGE customers can enroll in the Clean Wind Power program by visiting www.pge-online.com or by calling 800-542-8818.

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