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Are new gizmos going to revolutionize Northwest power industry? *Subtitle goes here, if there is one*

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Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, July 31, 2000

PR 66 00

CONTACTS: CONTACT: [Sharon Blair](#), BPA (503) 230-2939

PORTLAND, Ore. – Will tiny turbines and new tech gizmos power the Northwest of the future? Can distributed fuel cells and wind and solar power resources be developed in time to stave off the impending reliability crises facing the region? Will market forces lead to adequate conventional new generation construction? Is voluntary peak demand reduction feasible?

These and other questions will be explored when **Roger Hamilton**, Oregon Public commissioner, **Michael Moore**, California Energy Commissioner; **Donald Aitken** of the Union of Concerned Scientists; **Rich Glick**, U.S. Department of Energy senior policy advisor; and 400 electric utility industry experts gather at the second BPA-sponsored conference on emerging energy technologies Aug. 2-4 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Ore. The conference, dubbed Electric Revolution II, promises to pick up where the March 1999 conference left off: exploring advances entrepreneurs and mainline industries have made in distributed resources, demand-side management, renewable energy and more.

Early registration begins at 5 p.m. August 2 and continues at 7:30 a.m. August 3. The opening remarks are at 9 a.m. August 3.

"At the last conference we looked at what was possible in a future based on what we knew at the time," said Judi Johansen, BPA administrator. "This summer we're looking at what has changed. Just 18 months have passed, but many of these groups have made real progress."

At the conference, Amanda Nelson, vice president of customer services for PacifiCorp will talk about their "Blue Sky" green power product and their new partnership with BPA.

The three-day Electric Revolution II conference will explore regional issues from a futurist perspective. Participants will look at the looming reliability problem and what new technologies can do to solve it, green power and the explosive growth in the industry, and the contribution of traditional technologies – such as solar energy – and new technologies such as fiber optics.

Speakers at the conference will include Aitken, a world-renowned expert in renewable energy policy, economics and design. Rick Bush will talk about how changes in the electric utility industry are affecting countries around the globe and what those countries are doing in response. Bush is editor in

chief of Transmission and Distribution World magazine. Alan Richardson will advise Northwest utilities how they can best face the change. Richardson is executive director for the American Public Power Association. Jeff Lund will speak about distributed resources in a deregulated world. Lund is vice president of business development and corporate marketing for Echelon Corporation and a director for the Open Services Gateway Initiative, Inc., a nonprofit industry group working to define and promote an open standard for connecting the coming generation of smart consumer and small business appliances with Internet services.

About 25 exhibitors will show new technology products from solar panels to computer controls. Caterpillar will demonstrate a standby generator system capable of shoring up businesses during times of high demand for power. Their 40-foot low-noise portable power module is capable of supplying 2,000 kilowatts and is widely used by car manufacturers and breweries in the Midwest and on the East Coast. Another company, MagnaForce, will demonstrate a magnetic drive that cuts energy use and down time due to equipment wear and failures. This technology alone has saved one Idaho newsprint plant \$63,000 a year.

Electric Revolution II sponsors are: U.S. Department of Energy-Seattle Regional Office, Alcoa Fujikura, Ltd., ASCO Power Technologies, OSI Software, Inc, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

Supporting sponsors are: Association of Professional Energy Managers - Oregon Chapter, Canadian Institute of Energy – Vancouver Branch, Electric Power Research Institute, Energy Market Report, The Electric League of the Pacific Northwest, Inland Northwest Electric League, Northwest Energy Coalition, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council, Oregon Office of Energy, Renewable Northwest Project, Northwest Public Power Association, Northwest Power Planning Council and Washington Public Utility Districts Association.

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