

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

Franklin PUD signs load reduction agreement with BPA

Franklin PUD Board of Commissioners held a special meeting today to sign a load reduction agreement reducing Franklin PUD load from the BPA system by 9.5 average megawatts for one year.

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

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, May 30, 2001

PR 44C 01

CONTACTS: [Ed Mosey](#), BPA (503) 230-5359

The Bonneville Power Administration today announced that it has signed the first Eastern Washington public utility load reduction agreement. Under the agreement, Franklin PUD will reduce its share of BPA power by 9.5 average megawatts for one year.

Steve Wright, acting BPA administrator, had praise for Franklin, saying, "Franklin PUD is taking the lead among public utilities to help the region ensure economic stability. This is a very important step toward reducing the rate increase, and we hope that other public utilities will follow Franklin's lead."

Beverly Cochrane, Franklin PUD Board President, said she was pleased to finalize the agreement with BPA. "We're all in this together," Cochrane said. "If all customer groups contribute to the load reduction effort, we can have a huge impact on the cost of electricity for consumers in Franklin County and throughout the Pacific Northwest."

The agreement was signed today by Franklin PUD Manager Ken Sugden and BPA's Eastern Hub Manager, Rick Itami, during a ceremony at Franklin PUD's headquarters in Pasco, WA.

Beginning in October, 84.5 of Franklin's 94 average megawatt load will be served by BPA. As a result of today's signing, BPA will serve 9.5 fewer average megawatts of that load for one year. BPA will buy back the 9.5 average megawatts at a price roughly equivalent to its current preference rate.

BPA's goal is to find approximately 600 additional average megawatts of load reduction from its other 128 public utility customers. The goal is to keep loads down so that BPA does not have to buy power in the expensive wholesale market, which could result in far higher electricity rates. BPA expects that within two years sufficient new generation will have come on line so that market prices stabilize.

"Negotiations are ongoing with all our customer groups," said Wright. "We hope that our recent load reduction agreements with two aluminum companies, PacifiCorp, Clark Public Utilities, and now Franklin PUD will serve as catalysts to firming up additional agreements – and soon."

On April 9, BPA announced that the region's federal electricity system is headed for wholesale rate

increases of 250 percent or more beginning October 1 unless customers – the region’s retail utilities and large industries – make commitments to reduce energy use within the next 60 days

###
