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## *Former BPA Administrator H. R. Richmond dies*

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### **Bonneville Power Administration**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, July 3, 2001**

PR 74 01

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**PORTLAND, Ore.** – Former Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration H. R. (Russ) Richmond Jr. died Sunday in Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.. He was 85.

Richmond was appointed BPA administrator in 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. He presided over BPA during a period when the agency's role in the development of power resources and transmission was expanding to meet the needs of a growing economy.

In the late 1960s, Richmond oversaw construction of the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie, which runs between the Columbia River dams near The Dalles, Ore., and Los Angeles. The Intertie enables mutually beneficial sales of surplus power between the Northwest and California to match seasonal demands. BPA pioneered the technology that made this line possible. It remains one of the world's longest high-capacity direct-current electric transmission lines.

Richmond also was one of the authors of the Hydro-Thermal Program in which public and private utilities entered a new era of power plant construction for the Pacific Northwest. Under this program, BPA contracted with the utilities to buy the output of new power plants in order to reduce financing costs. Richmond's goal was to ensure that the Pacific Northwest's long-term power needs were met while preserving the region's economic advantage of low cost power.

Richmond was adept at working with the administration and the Congress to obtain benefits for the region. He liked to joke that he once got BPA's budget through the U. S. Senate Appropriations Committee by exchanging gumbo recipes with U. S. Senator Allen Ellender of Louisiana, the chairman.

When Richard M. Nixon was elected president in 1968, efforts were made to replace Richmond, a Democrat, with a Republican. Changing BPA administrators when there was a change of party in the White House had been the norm since BPA's creation in 1937. However, U. S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.), and U. S. Rep. Wendell Wyatt (R-Ore.) joined with U. S. Senator Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) to lead successful efforts to retain Richmond. Both public and private power interests also urged Nixon to retain Richmond in the leadership position.

Richmond retired from BPA on Nov. 30, 1972, and was succeeded by his deputy, Donald Hodel. Subsequently Richmond was a consultant to the Boeing Company, to Occidental Petroleum and to Hooker Chemical. From 1973 to 1982, Mr. Richmond was a member of the Board of Directors of Kaiser

Aluminum and Chemical Corporation, Oakland, Calif.

Richmond graduated from Tulane University and was a registered professional engineer in Louisiana and in Oregon. He first joined BPA in 1941 in Portland, becoming Walla Walla Area Manager in 1952. Richmond left BPA in 1954 to become General Sales Manager of Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, Los Angeles. In 1963, he returned to BPA as Field Operations Manager, was appointed deputy BPA administrator in 1966 and administrator a year later.

Richmond was born July 13, 1915, at Fort Riley, Kan., the son of Col. Henry R. Richmond, U. S. Cavalry, whose family settled in Jackson County, Tenn., in 1790.

Richmond is survived by his wife of 61 years, Margaret Wertz Richmond; sister Polly Richmond Lyman of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania; daughters

Eloisa R. Fox of Rolling Hills Estates, California, and Patricia R. Mehlberg,

Palos Verdes Estates, California; sons Henry R. Richmond, III, Portland, and

Professor Douglas W. Richmond, Arlington, Texas; seven grandchildren; and one

great-grandchild.

The family suggests contributions to Tulane University College of Engineering, New Orleans, La., or to the American Land Institute, Portland, Ore.

Service and burial will be private.

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