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DOE Agency Doubles Wind Power Purchases Northwest Leadership Commends Energy Department

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Bonneville Power Administration

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WASHINGTON, D.C. --Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham today announced the department's Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will double the amount of electricity it purchases from wind generation projects. BPA supplies roughly half of the electricity used in the Pacific Northwest.

"BPA's latest commitment to purchase wind power helps ensure that we are diversifying our energy portfolio," Secretary Abraham said. "Energy diversity is important for America's energy security."

BPA agreed to purchase about 34 percent of the output from the Stateline Wind Project located on the Oregon-Washington border southwest of Walla Walla, Wash. About 90 megawatts of power will be delivered to BPA through PacifiCorp Power Marketing Inc., a subsidiary of ScottishPower, beginning Dec. 29, 2001. BPA's purchase can provide energy for about 18,000 homes.

"BPA is excited to bring wind generated energy to its customers," Steve Wright, acting BPA Administrator said. "Wind projects are becoming increasingly cost competitive. The acquisition of these projects will allow us to better understand the real costs of wind integrated with our hydro system."

The Stateline project is built, owned and operated by FPL Energy, LLC. When the first phase is completed, 399 wind turbines will be arranged in several strings on privately owned hilltops and ridges located west of Walla Walla, Wash., and north of Pendleton, Ore. near the Columbia River bend. Each machine can generate 660 kilowatts. The entire project can produce 265 megawatts, all of which is marketed by PacifiCorp Power Marketing.

BPA currently purchases 34 megawatts of wind power from Foote Creek located in Wyoming, and recently announced a 50-megawatt purchase from another wind power development in Condon, Ore. This June, Secretary Abraham announced that BPA was negotiating for up to 830 additional megawatts of wind power potentially making Bonneville one of the largest suppliers of wind power in the country.

Congressional members said the following about BPA's purchase:

"Oregon has always been strongly committed to using clean, renewable energy, and this purchase will renew that important commitment," Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) said. "In the future, as our demand for

energy grows, we need to continue looking for ways to supply affordable electricity to working families while protecting our environment.”

“Renewable energy sources are important not only in reducing our reliance on foreign oil, but powering the American economy in environmentally friendly ways. Complementing existing energy sources, they can provide farmers and landowners with a source of income while advancing these two important national goals,” said Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), co-chair of the House Renewable Energy Caucus.

“Now more than ever, our country needs alternate sources of energy,” Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.) said. “I have toured the wind farm personally and was very impressed. This contribution to our power needs is significant and timely, and I commend BPA for recognizing this project.”

BPA is a federal agency, under the U.S. Department of Energy, that markets wholesale hydroelectric power primarily from the federal hydroelectric projects in the Columbia River Basin. BPA owns and operates about three-quarters of the Pacific Northwest's total transmission capacity. BPA customers include publicly owned and investor-owned utilities, as well as some large industries.

BPA Media Relations has broadcast quality videotaped images of wind turbines at Stateline available upon request. Call Bill Murlin, 503/230-5141.

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