



**BPA Wind Integration Team Initiatives
Update to WIT E-mail List
May 2010**

This is the monthly update on BPA's Wind Integration Team initiatives for May 2010. If you have questions about any of these initiatives, contact Eric King, WIT project manager, at 503-230-5236.

Firm contingent comment period extended: BPA has extended to June 4 the deadline for comments on its [discussion paper](#) on requiring use of a Western Electricity Coordinating Council firm contingent energy product code for wind power located in its balancing authority. The May 21 public meeting on the topic was well attended and drew a vigorous discussion with a wide range of viewpoints on the subject as it pertains to BPA and to broader utility usage. We will summarize comments received and BPA's responses after the extended comment period closes. Thanks very much for your participation on this issue to date, and we look forward to receiving additional comments through June 4. Please address comments to techforum@bpa.gov.

Customer Supplied Wind Balancing Services Business Practice out for comment: Also closing June 4 is a comment period on a draft business practice for use in the upcoming Customer Supplied Generation Imbalance Pilot Project. The draft business practice is posted on the [BPA Transmission Services Business Practices](#) page. Look for "Customer Supplied Wind Balancing Services Pilot" under the drop-down menu labeled, "Go To." The business practice lays out detailed procedures for participating in the program, under which wind projects would provide their own generation imbalance reserves rather than relying on BPA for reserves. Please submit comments on the draft business practice to businesspractices@bpa.gov. The pilot project is slated to launch no later than Oct. 1.

Intra-hour scheduling avoids DSO 216, practice extended indefinitely: On May 12, wind projects' and utilities' use of half-hour scheduling across BPA's balancing authority avoided what would otherwise have been a DSO 216 event. Four 6:30 p.m. sales totaling 330 megawatts brought reserve consumption back below the threshold, enabling dispatchers to cancel an imminent DSO 216 warning. Wind projects were able to sell more power and keep their turbines spinning. "This is exactly what we want to see happen!" said Brian Silverstein, BPA senior vice president for Transmission Services. Click [here](#) for the whole story.

BPA has extended its half-hour scheduling business practice indefinitely. It processed 65 within-hour wind schedule requests in May through the 24th of the month, the highest number yet. Interest in expanding the practice has been growing among Northwest utilities, and The Joint Initiative of ColumbiaGrid and NTTG is developing an automated scheduling platform that is expected to facilitate intra-hour transactions among participating utilities. The WECC held a panel discussion on intra-hour scheduling in May.

Windy Flats joins automatic generation control for DSO 216: Windy Flats, owned by Cannon Power Group, is now wired directly to BPA Automatic Generation Control, but only for purposes of responding to DSO 216. The operator took the step voluntarily, and several other wind projects have requested similar service. The direct connection ensures automatic response to a DSO 216 order, even if no one is in the wind project's control room, eliminating the need to have an operator observe a BPA signal and respond. "By using this new system your guys have developed, we will be able to improve our operation so we're not going to have to have anyone watching over it 24/7," explained Scott Reinhardt, vice president of operations for Cannon Power Group. This is the first time BPA has



connected any resource other than a few very large federal hydro projects directly to its automatic generation control. BPA originally designed the automatic connection as a remedial action if wind projects didn't respond to dispatchers' orders within 10 minutes of the event three times in two years. While that possibility still exists, no wind plant has yet had automatic connection to BPA imposed.

Wind generation dashboard improved. On May 19, BPA rolled out an improved version of its Integrated Curtailment and Response System (written iCRS, pronounced Icarus) Generation Advisor, which dispatchers and wind projects in BPA's balancing authority use to track and manage wind generation against balancing reserves. Improvements include easier-to-read displays, the ability to see a list of events over the preceding 24 hours, displays of potential reserves deployed, thresholds for both 85 percent and 90 percent reserve deployment, new audible alarms and netting calculations for those operators that are netting their wind projects' outputs for DSO-216 events. For details, click on this [presentation](#).

Dynamic Transfer Capability awarded: On May 3, on schedule, BPA responded to [dynamic transfer capability requests](#). All valid requests were awarded. They include 25 MW to Portland General Electric for its Vancycle wind project and an unspecified amount to Iberdrola consistent with the balancing plant it has submitted to BPA to participate in the agency's upcoming Customer Supplied Generation Imbalance Pilot Project. BPA is now working with participating utilities to complete Dynamic Transfer Agreements, which will become effective July 1. The next dynamic transfer capability window will open in mid-August.

Winds volatile in May: This May has felt more like March for people living near or operating wind projects near the Columbia River Gorge. The DSO 216 operating protocol came into play repeatedly as storms pushed quickly through the gorge or teased operators for hours before ramping. There were six limit (dec) events and seven curtailment (inc) events in the month, plus five cases where wind operators reduced reserve consumption sufficiently after receiving warnings that limits were not needed.

Wind-related rate case workshops handouts posted: If you were unable to attend the [May 12](#) or [May 27](#) BPA rate case workshops on generation inputs issues related to wind power, BPA handouts from both meetings are posted (click on the linked dates). Materials shared at the May 27 meeting by Iberdrola and Renewable Northwest Project are posted on the [rates customer comments page](#). The next rate case workshop on wind-related issues is scheduled for June 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the BPA rates hearing room at 911 N.E. 11th Ave., in Portland. This workshop will cover operating reserves, scaling methodology and the installed wind capacity forecast for BPA's balancing area through fiscal year 2013. Additional information will be posted on the [general rate case page](#) as it becomes available.

BPA responds to California PUC comment request: BPA responded May 12 to a California Public Utility Commission request for comments on treatment of renewable energy credits for renewable resources from other states delivered to the state through contracts that include firm transmission rights. [BPA's comments](#) note the growing interdependence of areas within the Western Interconnection as all parties seek to effectively increase large amounts of variable renewable generation into our resource mix at the lowest cost to consumers.