

JOURNAL

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION



Smith Rock, eastern Oregon

photo by Tony Morrell

Fiber optics public meeting planned

BPA will hold a public meeting on Aug. 9 to discuss third-party or joint ownership for new fiber-optic projects. The meeting is scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. at BPA's Ross Complex, DOB-1 Auditorium, 5411 NE Highway 99, Vancouver, Wash.

The August public meeting is a result of the fiber-optics report (developed jointly by BPA and the other power marketing administrations). The report was submitted to Congress on May 26. The report explains the need for a high-speed fiber-optic communications system that is essential for the safe, reliable operation of BPA's transmission system grid consisting of over 15,000 circuit miles. BPA's fiber-optics strategy is to upgrade its system to meet present and future operational needs while minimizing the cost impact on ratepayers. One way to minimize the impact on ratepayers is to lease fibers that are temporarily in excess of BPA's current

operational needs. Another opportunity is to encourage third-party or joint ownership through limited competition for new fiber-optics projects in cases where it meets the agency's safety and reliability requirements, where BPA has an operational need and when it is the least cost alternative. This second opportunity is the main topic of the Aug. 9 public meeting. For more information, please call Sharon Blair in Vancouver at (360) 418-2939.

Nez Perce hatchery construction has begun

BPA participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery on the Clearwater River near Lapwai, Idaho, on June 21. When construction of Stage I is completed in two to three years and the facilities are up to full production, the hatchery is expected to produce about 625,000 spring





chinook; 1,000,000 juvenile fall chinook; and 400,000 early run fall chinook annually to supplement existing populations in the Clearwater River Subbasin. The hatchery's purpose is to mitigate for losses caused by hydropower development and operation in the Columbia River Basin.

Unlike traditional hatcheries, the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery, which was 12 years in the planning, will use special rearing techniques intended to produce fish that are biologically similar to wild fish so they can be integrated into the natural stream and river environments needed to complete their life cycle. This approach is known as supplementation. A monitoring and evaluation plan for the hatchery has been approved by the Northwest Power Planning Council's Independent Scientific Review Panel and establishes "biological triggers" that will be used to help gauge the success of the artificial propagation program. The hatchery project addresses all the latest concerns about hatcheries in the basin and responds to suggestions in the Council's Artificial Production Review.

BPA installs its first alpha fuel cell system

June 2 was a big moment in BPA's Fuel Cell Development Partnership. BPA took delivery of and, with partner IdaTech (formerly Northwest Power Systems), installed the first of the alpha proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell systems at a field test site. This begins the roll out and installation of 10 alpha units for field testing. The installation went smoothly and took only a few hours. As soon as the transfer switch was engaged, high quality power was immediately available from the battery bank through a 5-kilowatt Trace inverter to serve the variable load. The system went through the automatic start-up sequence and came up to full output without incident. No flickers, drops or sags occurred as loads such as water coolers, treadmills, lights and computers were randomly connected and disconnected.

With one unit up and running, BPA is now on to the next four fuel cell systems scheduled for installation in July. BPA plans to install a total of ten alpha fuel cells. This test of home (residential-sized) fuel cell systems is a part of BPA's energy efficiency activities targeting new

technologies. The partnership between BPA, IdaTech and Northwest utilities will help influence the development of fuel cell technologies, opening up new possibilities in power supply.

BPA's goal is to make clean, efficient fuel cell technology a practical, affordable option for supplemental power in homes and small businesses.

New project protects spawning habitat for fish

The BPA and the Northwest Power Planning Council recently announced they have successfully worked with livestock operators to remove livestock grazing on 48,000 acres of federal rangeland along Elk Creek in Bear Valley, Idaho. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and Idaho Department of Fish and Game proposed the mitigation project to protect threatened and endangered spring/summer chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. Elk Creek provides drainage for the Bear Valley Basin in central Idaho. Nearly 50,000 acres of wild federal lands in this area provide habitat for a major population of native spring/summer chinook salmon. Elk Creek has particular significance for chinook salmon recovery. During the past 10 years, it has produced more than one third of the Middle Fork Salmon River's annual population of salmon. The Middle Fork Salmon River contains the only remaining stock of wild spring chinook, unaltered by hatchery supplementation, in the entire Snake River Basin.

Idaho Fish and Game and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe in 1999 proposed the project in which BPA would compensate livestock permittees for giving up their grazing permits. The Northwest Power Planning Council recommended the project as a high priority for funding. After rigorous review, their Independent Scientific Review Panel said the project "...is an excellent proposal. It emphasizes the protection and passive restoration of habitat and supports its points with data." The project reduces the tremendous costs — to both the rancher and the Forest Service — of running a cattle operation near sensitive salmon habitats, including the costs of mitigation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting results.



Study of Northwest aluminum industry proposed

The Northwest aluminum producers have been an economic mainstay in the Northwest since the 1940s. The companies have approached BPA to conduct a regional discussion regarding their continued viability in the region and their relative value as a regional economic mainstay.

BPA is working with regional stakeholders to form a 10- to 12-member study team to help define the overall focus and scope of the study as well as the questions that need to be answered. The purpose of the study would be to develop a regional assessment of whether the economic viability of the aluminum producers is threatened, what has caused the problem (if a problem exists) and what, if anything, should be done about it by the region or BPA.

BPA believes there are three major questions to be answered: (1) What is the value of the aluminum producers to the region both in terms of state and local economies and the stability of the Northwest power system? (2) Do rising wholesale electricity prices present aluminum companies with a significant threat to their economic survival? (3) If so, what, if anything, should be done about it?

BPA believes a team of 10 to 12 members should include representatives from significant regional stakeholder groups including public power customers, the four Northwest states, Columbia Basin tribes, environmental interests and the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Supplement analyses listed on public involvement page

The *Journal* now includes a list of new supplement analyses available to the public. BPA prepares supplement analyses on site-specific projects that are tiered to programmatic environmental impact statements (EIS), such as the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265). BPA also prepares supplement analyses to other EISs when there are changes to a project that may result in additional environmental impacts. The supplement analysis

documents a determination that the site-specific project or project change is covered by the original EIS and no further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation is needed. BPA will provide a list of the supplement analyses completed during the previous month in the *Journal*. Copies of the supplement analyses are available on the Web at <<http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/Projects>> or you may request a copy by calling the document request line at 1-800-622-4520.

Electric Revolution II to be held in August

On Aug. 2 to 4 in Portland, Ore., regional utility industry members will meet to look at the looming reliability problem and what new technologies can do to solve it. Other topics include green power and the explosive growth in the industry, and the contribution of traditional technologies (including solar energy), and new technologies, such as fiber optics.

Speakers at the conference will include Dr. Donald Aitken, a world-renowned expert in renewable energy policy, economics and design. 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.

Electric Revolution II sponsors are U.S. Department of Energy–Seattle Regional Office, BPA and the Congressional Renewable Energy Caucus. Visit the Web site at http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KCC/electric_rev2/conference.htm for more information or call Sharon Blair at (503) 230-3929.

Editor's note: The *Journal* is located on the Web at <http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KCC/jl/jl2x.htm>

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

STATUS REPORTS

Big Eddy-Ostrander Vegetation Management. Ore. — To control vegetation on two segments of the 500-kV transmission line right-of-way. One segment is from Lolo Pass to near Parkdale. The other segment is east of Parkdale. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDA) Trout Production Facility Project. Idaho — To fund the design, construction, operations and maintenance of the facility to help meet the need for off-site mitigation for losses on the mainstem Columbia River. A preliminary EA (#3276) is available on the Web at www.efw.bpa.gov or call to receive a copy. See Close of Comment.

NEW! Condon Wind Project. Ore. — To acquire about 24.5 megawatts of electricity from the proposed Condon Wind Project. An EIS is being prepared on the wind project and its associated transmission. Call to be added to the mail list. See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment.

Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan. Regionwide — To examine the impacts that may arise from implementing one of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in the ongoing regional processes. An EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Fourmile Hill Geothermal Development Project (Calpine). No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on U.S. Forest Service land in the Klamath and Modoc forests. BLM has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. A final EIS and summary are available. Call to receive a copy.

IDFG Snake River Chinook Captive Rearing. Idaho — To fund Idaho Department of Fish and Game's captive rearing project for Endangered Species Act-listed Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon. The EA is being finalized. A FONSI is anticipated. Call to be added to the mail list.

Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement. Idaho — Development of a native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing of acclimated smolts to preserve and recover the population. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project. Wash. — To build a 500-kV transmission line in central King County that would connect an existing transmission line near the community of Kangley into the Echo Lake Substation. An EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Northwest Regional Power Facility. Wash. — To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) and a supplement analysis are available. Call to receive a copy.

Shelton-Kitsap Transmission Rebuild. Wash. — To rebuild a 31-mile 115-kV transmission line between Shelton and Kitsap substations as a double circuit 230-kV line within the existing right-

of-way. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Stateline Wind Project. Wash. and Ore. — To acquire up to 300 megawatts of electricity from the proposed Stateline Wind Project. An EIS is being prepared on the wind project and its associated transmission. Call to be added to the mail list. See Close of Comment.

Tanner Electric Transmission Line. Wash. — To build a 4.5-mile transmission line that would tie a new substation, proposed by Tanner Electric Cooperative, into an existing transmission line (owned by Puget Sound Energy). The final EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Telephone Flats Geothermal Project (CalEnergy). No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on U.S. Forest Service land in the Modoc Forest. BLM has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. The final EIS (#0298) and summary are available. Call to receive a copy.

Transmission System Vegetation Management Program. Regionwide — To develop a vegetation management program while maintaining a safe and reliable transmission system. The final EIS (#3277) is available on the Web at www.efw.bpa.gov or call to receive a copy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Condon Wind Project scoping meetings, **July 19**, 4 to 8 p.m., City of Arlington Municipal Building, Council Chambers, Locust and First streets, Arlington, Ore.; **July 20**, 4 to 8 p.m., Gilliam County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, 221 S. Oregon St., Condon, Ore.

Conservation and Renewables Discount public meetings, **July 26** and **Aug. 23**, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 122, BPA, 905 NE 11th Ave., Portland, Ore. Agenda and handouts are on the Web at www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/

Conservation as part of Augmentation Effort public meetings, **July 26** and **Aug. 23**, 1 to 4 p.m., Room 122, BPA, 905 NE 11th Ave., Portland, Ore. Agenda and handouts are on the Web at www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Coeur d'Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility — Preliminary EA, **July 14**

Condon Wind Project — Scoping, **Aug. 7**

Stateline Wind Project — Scoping, **July 7**

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSIS

Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery Program EIS, Idaho

Watershed Management Program EIS — John Day Watershed Restoration, Ore., (SA-29); Wind River Watershed Restoration: Wind River Road Decommissioning and Middle/Mining Reach of the Wind River and Dry Creek Rehabilitation, Wash., (SA-30)

EA: Environmental Assessment, EIS: Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact, ROD: Record of Decision

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED: The Journal is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics. To order documents or to be added to a mail list, call: 800-622-4520 or (503) 230-7334 (Portland). For questions/comments call: (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 800-622-4519. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. Public Involvement, Internet, E-mail address comment@BPA.gov, BPA home page: <http://www.bpa.gov>