

# JOURNAL

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## THE REGION RESPONDS!

Northwest utilities and industries have answered BPA's call for load reductions magnificently this spring, committing to reduce their loads on BPA by more than 2,200 megawatts for October 2001-March 2002. This reaches 95 percent of BPA's 2,400 megawatt goal. As a result, BPA's rate adjustment for October will be in double-digits, not the 250 percent or more that was projected in April. BPA scheduled press conferences for June 29 to announce the results and thank the region. For the whole story, see Acting Administrator Steve Wright's letter to the Northwest (mailed with this issue of the *Journal*).



*The drought continues: Low streamflows will continue to be the norm for the Columbia River the rest of this summer.*

## SPRING SPILL IS DONE

BPA concluded 32 days and 600-megawatt-months of spring spill at lower Columbia River dams on June 15. Due to the power emergency, the spill was about 15 percent of the water that would be spilled in a normal water year under requirements of the Biological Opinion on Columbia River hydro operations for endangered salmon. But the spill was targeted to times and dams when most of the listed fish were migrating, which increased its biological effectiveness.

## NEXT QUESTION: SUMMER SPILL

BPA and other federal agencies are working on what to do about spill this summer. Summer spill primarily benefits salmon stocks that are not listed as endangered or threatened. As of late June, the

system is right on the threshold of meeting the criteria established by the federal agencies for providing spill this drought year. Federal agencies took

public comment on summer spill through June 22 and were to meet June 29 to discuss options for spill or other actions to help migrating fish this summer.

Spill is not the only method of transporting fish safely past dams. Fish bypasses also reduce the number of fish passing through the turbines. Barging also is being used and is considered to be most effective method in low water

years. For more, go to [www.salmonrecovery.gov](http://www.salmonrecovery.gov)

## POLICY EASES POWER SHORTAGE

Through September 2002, BPA customers may temporarily add small generating resources without permanently reducing their call on power from BPA. The agency's new Temporary Small Generating Resource Policy applies to resources that produce one megawatt to 25 MW. All resources must comply with applicable state and local operations. Diesel generators must use specified techniques to control emissions that cost \$1,000 to \$3,000 per unit. Adding more resources to the West Coast power pool now will ease power shortages, and adding small resources close to cities will help improve power system reliability. BPA called for public comment on a draft policy this spring. The policy expires in September 2002. For details, go to <http://www.bpa.gov/power/pl/subscription/announcements.shtml>





## NEW LARGE SINGLE LOADS AT ISSUE

BPA is requesting public comments through July 27 on three issues related to its New Large Single Load policy. The policy defines how BPA implements a Northwest Power Act requirement that BPA charge a “new resources” rate to new loads that consume 10 average megawatts or more. The term was designed to make new large power consumers pay costs of adding new power sources to serve their loads. Issues still occasionally arise about what loads should be subject to the NR rate. Current issues are:

- 1) BPA preference customer service to direct-service industrial load.
- 2) Transfer of “contracted for, committed to” loads between BPA preference customers.
- 3) Whether BPA should close the class of “contracted for, committed to load” served by BPA customers. Large loads that were “contracted for, committed to” by BPA customers before Sept. 1, 1979 are not subject to the NR rate.

For more, see <http://www.bpa.gov/power/pl/subscription/announcements.shtml>

## SEVEN WIND PROJECTS SHORTLISTED

BPA now has seven wind projects that add up to 830 megawatts on its short list, culled from 25 wind projects totaling more than 2,500 MW submitted this spring. If all the projects are built as proposed, they will increase the total U.S. wind generation capacity by 20 percent. BPA will negotiate predevelopment agreements with the four project developers: SeaWest Wind Power of San Diego; Zilkha Renewable Energy and Columbia Wind Power, both of Texas; and Pacific Winds of Boise, Idaho. BPA will complete environmental review of each project before committing to power purchases and is studying how large amounts of intermittent wind power would affect the Northwest power system. BPA already has 34 MW of wind power on line and another 425 MW in contract negotiation or environmental review.

## CONSERVATION'S STACKING UP

BPA is offering its customers many ways to reduce their loads through energy conservation and custom-

ers are signing up quickly. As of late June, the tally includes:

- 69 customers in BPA's Energy Star compact fluorescent lightbulb program or running their own.
  - 69 customers in the regional VendingMiSer program.
  - 54 customers signed on as Energy Star partners.
  - 41 signed Conservation-Augmentation proposals from 14 customers, with another 16 ConAug proposals from eight customers being evaluated.
  - 39 conservation and renewable discount early implementers.
  - 14 utilities signed up for a ConAug commercial lighting program. Up to 27 more may join them.
- For more, go to <http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N>

## BPA, CALIFORNIA SET SUMMER GROUND RULES

BPA, the California Department of Water Resources and the California Independent System Operator have agreed to a contingency plan for this power-short summer. “We want California to know that we're prepared to help them if we can,” said BPA Senior Vice President for the Power Business Line Paul Norman. The principles of the summer contingency plan are:

- All transactions must benefit both California and the Pacific Northwest.
- Transactions must not transfer reliability problems from one region to the other.
- If energy provided by one region requires operations outside environmental protection restrictions, compensation must be provided for environmental remediation.

BPA expects to continue negotiations with CWDR and the California ISO to develop a winter contingency plan with ground rules for how California may assist the Pacific Northwest this coming winter.

## RATE ROD RELEASED

BPA's acting administrator signed the final record of decision on the power rate case on June 20. The rates now go to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for review before taking effect Oct. 1. The final ROD doesn't include the actual percentage adjustment to the rate because that will reflect

application of three cost-recovery adjustment clauses in the rate structure, including the load-based CRAC that has been the subject of this spring's load-reduction effort. "The customers proposed the load-based CRAC as a way to handle the volatility of the power market," BPA Power Rate Case Manager Barney Keep noted. "It's proved a very valuable concept." See <http://www.bpa.gov/power/psp/rates/RateCase/announcements.shtml>

## FISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN EIS OUT

BPA is calling for public comments through Aug. 6 on a draft environmental impact statement for its Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan. BPA's decisions include policy choices made in implementing and funding actions under the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, the 2000 Biological Opinions and the Federal Caucus Endangered Species Act Implementation Plan, among others. "The draft EIS is about policy direction and assessing tradeoffs from a broad perspective, not specific projects," said EIS lead Charles Alton. See <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/FishWildlifeImplementation>

## IT'S STILL DRY

The National weather Service's River Forecast Center has released its final June forecast for Columbia River runoff for 2001. It is for runoff of 55.6 million acre-feet, second only to the 53.8 MAF of 1977.

In theory, BPA is planning to go into next winter with sufficient water so as not to affect next year's operations. "But it's a stretch," BPA Vice President for Generation Supply Greg Delwiche said. "The Canadian reservoirs on the upper Columbia River will not refill this year. I can't imagine we'd have no problem if we get another year of 55 million acre-feet. If we get a normal year, we could probably come out of the drought relatively quickly. If it rains in November, I'll heave a huge sigh of relief."

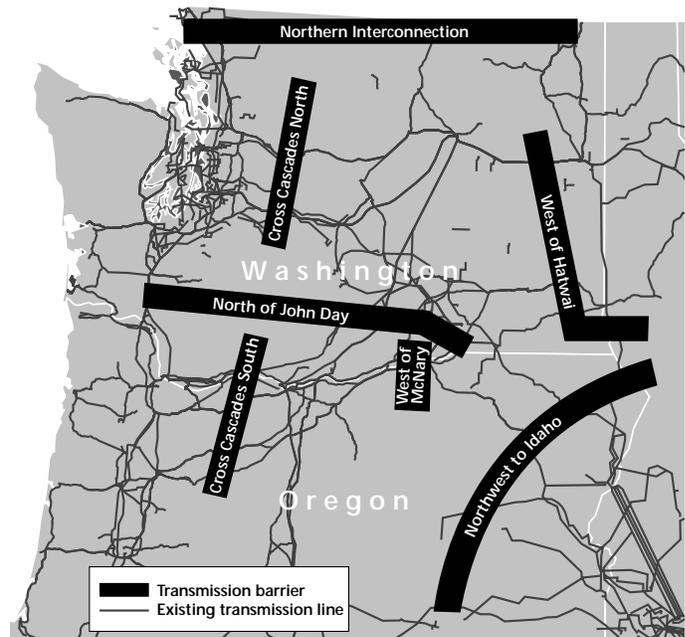
## WEST OF HATWAI CURTAILED

BPA has had to curtail transmission capacity on its transmission lines between Montana and Washington to protect the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system. BPA applied summer season

limits curtailing capacity on the West of Hatwai cutplane on May 31. The new limits are more restrictive because of the loss of Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. load in Montana and the growth of load served by Avista Corp. transmission lines parallel to the BPA lines.

A cutplane is a collection of transmission lines on which the amount of power that can be carried may be constrained, or limited, under certain operating conditions. BPA is working with the owners of the Colstrip generating plant in eastern Montana to develop an agreement to drop a generator there if dropping federal generation is not sufficient. This would relieve pressure on the cutplane and allow it to resume operation at full or nearly full capacity.

The capacity curtailment of the West of Hatwai cutplane highlights the need for new transmission. BPA's five-year infrastructure plan includes construction of a 500-kV line from Bell Substation to Grand Coulee Substation, which will relieve constraints across the West of Hatwai cutplane. BPA is seeking additional borrowing authority so it can proceed with construction.



*Cutplanes – the heavy black lines on this map – show points of stress on the transmission system.*

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

## STATUS REPORTS

**Blackfoot Wind Project EIS.** Mont. — To acquire 36-66 megawatts of electricity from the proposed wind project.

**Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDA) Trout Production Facility Project EA.** Idaho — To fund design, construction, operation and maintenance of a facility to provide off-site mitigation for losses on the mainstem Columbia River.

**Condon Wind Project EIS.** Ore. — To acquire about 50 megawatts of electricity from the proposed wind project. The draft EIS is available (#3376).  

**Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS.** Regionwide — To examine potential impacts of implementing one of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in regional processes. Draft EIS is available (#0312).   

**Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EA.** Ore. — To build egg incubation and juvenile rearing facilities on the Lostine and Imnaha rivers and modify the Gumboot and Lookingglass facilities.

**Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement EA.** Idaho — Develop native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing of acclimated smolts to preserve and recover the population.

**Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project EIS.** Wash. — To build a 500-kV transmission line in King County to connect an existing transmission line near Kangley to Echo Lake Substation. The draft EIS is available (#3017).   

**Maiden Wind Farm EIS.** Wash. — To acquire 150 to 494 megawatts of power from the proposed wind project. 

**McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project EIS.** Ore. and Wash. — To build about 75 miles of new 500-kV transmission line from McNary Substation to John Day Substation.

**Mercer Ranch Power Generation Project EIS.** Wash. — To integrate an 850-megawatt natural-gas-fired combustion turbine 11 miles west of Paterson.

**NEW! New Large Single Load Policy Issues** Regionwide — To consider three issues related to implementing BPA's New Large Single Load Policy.   

**Santiam-Bethel Transmission Line Project EA.** Ore. — To rebuild a 17-mile section of the Santiam-Chemawa line to double-circuit to accommodate a new 230-kV transmission line from the Santiam Substation to a Portland General Electric line to PGE's Bethel Substation.

**Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project EIS.** Wash. — To build a new 500-kV line to relieve constraints on several lines, provide more operational flexibility to meet endangered salmon obligations and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy.

**Starbuck Power Project EIS.** Wash. — To integrate power from the proposed project into the transmission grid.

**Temporary Small Resource Policy.** Regionwide. — ROD is available. 

**Umatilla Generating Project EIS.** Ore. - To integrate electrical power from a new 550-megawatt natural gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine generation plant proposed by the Umatilla Generating Co., LP.

**Vegetation Management EIS Supplement Analyses** 

- Naselle Tarlett #1 and #2 transmission line right-of-way, Wash. (SA-13).
- Teakean Butte microwave site, Idaho and Wash. (SA-14).
- Selected sections along the Ross-St. John and Ross-Carborundum transmission line rights-of-way Ore. (SA-15).

**Wallula-McNary Transmission Line and Wallula Power Project EIS.** Ore. and Wash. - To build 35 miles of transmission line from a proposed gas-fired power generation project in Wallula, Wash., to McNary Substation, Ore. 

**Watershed Management EIS Supplement Analyses** 

- Habitat Enhancement & Protection on Duck Valley Indian Reservation - Owyhee River, Idaho and Nev. (SA-54).
- Jim Brown Creek Streambank Stabilization Project, Idaho (SA-55).
- Mining Reach of the Wind River and Dry Creek Rehabilitation, Wash. (SA-56).

**White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream From Bonneville Dam EA.** Ore., Wash. and Idaho. — To restore and mitigate for documented lost white sturgeon productivity caused by development and operation of the hydropower system using intensive fisheries management and modified hydro system operation.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS.** Draft EIS comment meeting. July 9, 1 to 4 p.m. BPA headquarters, Room 122, 905 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Ore. Additional workshops may be arranged. Contact Peggy Simpson at (503) 230-3900.

**Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line EIS.** Draft EIS comment meeting. Aug. 1, 4 to 8 p.m. Maple Valley Community Center, 22010 SE 248th St., Maple Valley, Wash.

**New Large Single Load Issues.** Public comment meeting. **July 10,** 1 p.m., Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 N.E. Airport Way, Portland, Ore.

**Conservation or Crisis? A Northwest Choice.** Conference sponsored by BPA and NewsData. **Sept. 24-26,** DoubleTree Hotel, Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Dr., Portland, Ore. Contact Jennifer Eskil (509) 527-6232 for info.

## CLOSE OF COMMENT

**Wallula-McNary Power Line and Wallula Power Project.** Scoping. **July 13**

**Maiden Wind Project.** Scoping. **July 13**

**Condon Wind Project.** Draft EIS. **July 16**

**New Large Single Load.** Policy issues. **July 27**

**Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan.** Draft EIS. Aug. 6

**Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line.** Draft EIS. Aug. 15

Unless otherwise noted, documents cited are being prepared.  Indicates a new document is available. Call to order new documents or to be added to the mail list(s) of project(s) of interest to you. Process Abbreviations: **EA** – Environmental Assessment, **EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement, **FONSI** – Finding of No Significant Impact, **ROD** – Record of Decision, **SA** – Supplement Analysis.

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, call: 800-622-4520 or (503) 230-7334 (Portland). For questions/comments or to be added to a mail list, 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>