

WRIGHT CALLS FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Northwest must “get off the roller coaster” of boosting conservation funding when power prices soar and cutting funding when prices sink. That was the message BPA Acting Administrator Steve Wright sent at BPA’s “Conservation or Crisis: A Northwest Choice” conference Sept. 24.

Wright called for a regional forum, to be convened jointly by BPA and the Northwest Power Planning Council, to develop a 10-year Comprehensive Northwest Energy Efficiency Strategy. He said a regional energy strategy should base conservation funding on the long-term cost of energy and create an environment where utilities that pursue energy efficiency investments are not put at a competitive disadvantage.

More than 20 co-sponsors from the Environmental Protection Agency to Home Depot supported the conservation conference; more than 500 people attended. The exhibit area spilled over into the hall with 48 vendors who offered advanced metering, waste-heat recovery systems, consulting services, and hundreds of shades, shapes and sizes of compact fluorescent light bulbs.



Save a Watt, Win a Car

If you need a new reason to save energy, try this hybrid gasoline-electric car. Some power-saving citizen will win it in BPA’s Community Conservation Challenge. More than 6,000 Northwest families already have pledged specific ways they’ll save electricity. Those who pledge are automatically entered in the car contest. To sign up, watch for pledge cards from participating stores or utilities, or contact the challenge directly at 1-800-962-9731 or <http://www.bpa.gov/energy/n/news/cc>.

NEW CONTRACTS, RATES TAKE EFFECT

After literally years of preparation – on contracts, load reduction and a seemingly endless rate case – BPA’s new power sales contracts and rates went into effect on Oct. 1 for the 135 public agencies, nine

direct-service industries and six investor-owned utilities that buy power from BPA. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted interim approval of BPA’s rates on Sept. 26.

And the work is not yet over. “We have so many new products – Slice, block sales, ancillary services – customers are still figuring out just how everything will work best for them,” said Allen Burns, power business line vice president for requirements marketing. PBL has been developing and testing scheduling and billing systems

under the new contracts for the last few months. Prescheduling of energy deliveries began Sept. 28.

HERMISTON, UMPQUA ARE NEWEST BPA CUSTOMERS

With new contracts in effect, the city of Hermiston, and the Umpqua Tribal Utility Cooperative, both of Oregon, are BPA’s newest preference customers. The Umpqua Tribal Utility Cooperative has purchased



five average megawatts of BPA power to serve tribal loads in southern Oregon. Hermiston Energy Services, the Oregon city's new municipal utility, has a full services contract with BPA for 12 aMW.

SECURITY HEIGHTENED ON GRID

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, BPA responded to terrorist attacks on American targets with precautionary steps to protect its employees and to assure continuing power system reliability. The agency immediately:

- Evacuated all but essential personnel.
- Canceled planned maintenance outages on the transmission system.
- Placed all maintenance crews on duty and asked them to stand by to respond to any event that might occur.

The power grid continued to function without incident or specific threat. BPA offices reopened the next day with normal operations but heightened security. Regularly scheduled maintenance resumed. Extra maintenance crews were relieved of their standby duty.

VISITORS CENTERS CLOSED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation closed all their Northwest dams to visitors on Sept. 11. Visitors centers remain closed and both agencies continued to operate under increased security. BPA also has closed its visitors centers in The Dalles, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., due to increased concern for the security of vital infrastructure. "These are immediate steps, not necessarily permanent," said BPA security chief Bob Windus. "We will evaluate public access as part of our assessment of long-term security measures for the agency. But I doubt we'll ever be quite so open again."

ASSESSING SECURITY OF DAMS, TRANSMISSION

Well before the tragedy of Sept. 11, federal dam and transmission grid operators had already taken major steps toward countering terrorist attacks on the

federal power system. For several years, BPA has worked with an interagency work group that is developing methods to assess the security of dams and transmission systems. The method will be made available to other Northwest dam and transmission owners. The security assessment methodology is being developed in response to two 1998 presidential orders on terrorism and infrastructure protection.

GREEN TAG SALE TARGETS CLEAN AIR

"Green Tags" jointly purchased from BPA by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the Oregon-based Climate Trust will help reduce air pollution. That's the bottom line of a three-way deal announced by the Foundation in September. The Foundation and the Climate Trust said they would buy more than \$200,000 worth of Green Tags from BPA, representing power from BPA-supported wind projects. The wind generation will displace electricity that otherwise would have been generated by burning fossil fuel at other power plants. BPA will use the Green Tag revenue to invest in more renewable resource projects.

PIKEMINNOW SEASON EXTENDED

BPA has extended the northern pikeminnow fishing season to Oct. 14 in selected areas to take more of the voracious salmon munchers from the Columbia. "Catch rates have been very high, and a lot of anglers are continuing to fish with enthusiasm, so we thought we would keep the program open longer," said program manager John Skidmore. For more information, go to <http://www.pikeminnow.org/>.

EDITOR'S NOTE

With the recent increase in new power plant and transmission project proposals, BPA is conducting many more public involvement processes than it has in some years. This edition of the *Journal* offers expanded descriptions of projects undergoing environmental review, more Web references for further information, and somewhat larger type. It was either that or include a magnifying glass with each copy.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

STATUS REPORTS

Blackfeet Wind Project EIS, Glacier Co., Mont.

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. proposes to build and operate up to 66 megawatts of wind generation on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. BPA proposes to purchase up to the full electrical output. Power would be integrated to the transmission grid at Glacier Electric Cooperative and Montana Power Co. facilities. No BPA construction is required. Scoping closed May 25. A draft EIS is expected in spring 2002.

Cliff's Energy Project ROD, Klickitat Co., Wash.

BPA is analyzing whether to provide transmission integration services for a combustion turbine proposed by GNA Energy, LLC. The company would build the power plant, five miles of new natural gas line, and 700 feet of 230-kV transmission line to BPA's Harvalun Substation. Klickitat County issued a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance in May. BPA took comments on the proposed interconnection. A recent change in the project will require supplemental analysis and further public comment when details of changes are known. A Record of Decision is expected in January 2002.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility Project EA, Kootenai Co., Idaho

BPA would fund design, construction, operation and maintenance of a trout hatchery and related facilities to provide off-site mitigation for salmon and steelhead losses on the mainstem Columbia River. Public comments on a preliminary EA closed on July 14, 2000.

Condon Wind Project EIS, Gilliam Co., Ore.

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. proposes to build and operate a 41 to 83-unit, 50-megawatt wind farm north of Condon, Ore. BPA is considering acquiring power and providing transmission integration services. The final EIS is available (#3376). BPA's Record of Decision will be issued after Oct. 8.

Federal Columbia River Power System Implementation Plan, Regionwide.

This is the federal draft plan for Columbia River Power System Operations in 2002-2006 to carry out biological opinions issued under the Endangered Species Act. Federal agencies closed comments on the draft implementation plan on Sept. 28. See www.salmonrecovery.gov.

Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS, Regionwide.

This EIS examines potential impacts of implementing any of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in regional processes. BPA received public comments on the Draft EIS in summer 2001 (#0312); the final is expected this winter.

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EA, Wallowa and Union Cos., Ore.

This project would build egg incubation and juvenile rearing facilities on the Lostine and Imnaha rivers and modify the existing Gumboot and Lookingglass facilities to help recover spring chinook salmon stocks in the Lower Snake River. Scoping concluded on Dec. 15, 2000.

Horse Heaven Wind Project EIS, Benton Co., Wash.

BPA proposes to purchase up to 50 average megawatts

from a 225-MW wind project proposed by Washington Winds Inc. The developer would build, own and operate the project and would build about 13 miles of transmission line to interconnect with BPA's transmission grid. Scoping is in progress.

Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement EA, Valley Co., Idaho

This project would recover the creek's depleted native summer chinook salmon population. The project would produce broodstock for rearing of acclimated smolts. It would include additional facilities at the McCall Fish Hatchery in McCall, Idaho, and acclimation facilities along Johnson Creek. Scoping concluded March 30.

Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project EIS, King Co., Wash.

BPA proposes to build a 500-kV transmission line to connect an existing transmission line near Kangley to Echo Lake Substation. BPA's preferred alternative would in part run parallel to its existing Raver-Echo Lake 500-kV line. The project is needed to improve transmission system reliability and to meet requirements of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada. All four routes now under consideration pass through the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Six other alternative routes were dropped for not meeting the project's purpose and need. The comment period on the draft EIS (#3017) closed Sept. 4. A final EIS is expected in December.

Maiden Wind Farm EIS, Benton and Yakima Cos., Wash.

Washington Winds Inc., proposes to build and operate a wind project of 150-494 megawatts north of Prosser. BPA proposes to acquire and transmit up to 50 MW, but will study the full electrical output of the project. The developers would build up to four miles of 230-kilovolt or 500-kV lines to connect the project to BPA's transmission grid. Scoping closed July 13. The draft EIS is expected out for review in December.

McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project EIS, between McNary and John Day dams, Ore. and Wash.

BPA proposes to build about 75 miles of new 500-kV transmission line parallel to existing BPA lines from McNary Substation to John Day Substation. It would cross the Columbia River below McNary Dam, run parallel to the north side of the Columbia through Benton and Klickitat counties, and cross back into Oregon near John Day Dam. It is needed to integrate some of many new generating projects considered for this area, and to reinforce transmission reliability. Scoping closed on June 7.

Mercer Ranch Generation Project EIS, Benton Co., Wash.

BPA will be a cooperating agency on a Washington State Environmental Protection Act EIS on an 850-megawatt combined-cycle combustion turbine 11 miles west of Paterson proposed by Cogentrix Energy, Inc. To integrate project power into the transmission grid, BPA would build and operate a switchyard that would connect to two existing and one proposed transmission lines that cross the proposed project site. The Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council is the lead agency for environmental review of the project. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected by February 2002. See <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/mercer.html>.

MORE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

NEW! Mountain Lakes Trout Restoration Project EA, Flathead National Forest, Mont.

BPA proposes to fund a project to remove exotic trout species from selected lakes in the South and Middle forks of the Flathead drainage and replace them with genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. Scoping is expected to open in October. A preliminary EA is due next spring.

Santiam-Bethel Transmission Line Project EA, Marion and Linn Cos., Ore.

BPA proposes to rebuild 17 miles of the Santiam-Chemawa line from its Santiam Substation to the line's connection to Portland General Electric's Bethel Substation. BPA would replace the existing single-circuit 230-kV line with double-circuit towers. The project would relieve overloads on the existing line in winter. BPA originally proposed a new line next to the existing line. As a result of public comments during scoping, BPA changed its proposal in the preliminary EA to a replacement double-circuit line.  

Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project EIS, near Elensburg to near the Hanford Reservation, Wash.

To build a new 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to a new or existing substation near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The project is needed to relieve constraints on several lines, provide more operational flexibility to meet endangered salmon obligations and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy. Four routes are under consideration. Following public comments in scoping, BPA eliminated one potential route and identified a new option to avoid most irrigated farmland. Scoping closed Jan. 25. A draft EIS is expected late this year.

Starbuck Power Project EIS, Columbia and Walla Walla Cos., Wash.

BPA proposes to construct about 16 miles of 500-kV transmission line from the proposed Starbuck Power Plant to Lower Monumental Substation to connect the 1,200 megawatt, combined-cycle combustion-turbine into the power grid. Existing lines are near capacity. BPA is cooperating with the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council; EFSEC is has lead for environmental review of the generation project; BPA has lead on integrating transmission. See <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/starbuck.html>.  

Umatilla Generating Project EIS, Umatilla Co., Ore.

Umatilla Generating Co., LP., proposes a 550-megawatt combined-cycle combustion turbine generation plant. The Umatilla Electric Cooperative would reconductor about 11 miles of transmission to 230-kV, and build about one-half mile of new 230-kV line to BPA's McNary Substation, where BPA would integrate the power with the transmission grid. About 30 people attended scoping meetings in January and six attended a draft EIS comment meeting Sept. 25. EIS (#0324). Written comments are being accepted now.  

Walla Walla McNary Transmission Line/Walla Walla Power Project EIS, Walla Walla Co., Wash., and Umatilla Co., Ore.

BPA proposes to build 34 miles of 500-kV transmission line from a proposed 1,300 megawatt combined cycle combustion

turbine gas-fired in Wallula, Wash., to McNary Substation, Ore. The turbine is proposed by Newport Northwest, LLC. BPA is working with the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council on environmental review of the entire project. Scoping closes Oct. 5. A draft EIS is expected in January 2002. See <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/wallula.html>.  

White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream from Bonneville Dam EA, Columbia River and Major Tributaries in Ore., Wash. and Idaho

This EA addresses work to restore and mitigate for lost white sturgeon productivity caused by development and operation of the hydropower system using intensive fisheries management and modified hydro system operation.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES Vegetation Management EIS:

- Keeler-Allston Transmission Line ROW, Ore. (SA-24).
- Ostrander-Pearl Transmission Line ROW, Ore. (SA-25)
- Reedsport-Fairview #1 Transmission Line Structure, Ore. (SA-26)
- Port Angeles-Sappo No. Transmission Line ROW, Wash. (SA-28)

Watershed Management EIS:

- Lake Billy Shaw Operation and Maintenance, Nev. (SA-54)
- Hood River Fish Habitat, Ore. (SA-62)
- Pelican Creek Crossing Improvement, Ore. (SA-63)

Wildlife Management Program EIS:

- Eagle Lakes Ranch Acquisition and Restoration, Wash. (SA-17)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wallula-McNary Transmission Line and Wallula Power Project EIS

Public scoping meeting **Oct. 2**, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Middle School Cafeteria, 835 Maple St., Burbank, Wash.

Starbuck Power Project EIS

Public scoping meeting and open house. **Oct. 3**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Starbuck School, 717 Tucannon St., Starbuck, Wash.

Horse Heaven Wind Project EIS

Public scoping meeting. **Oct. 29**, 5-8 p.m., Benton PUD building, 2721 West 10th Ave. Kennewick, Wash.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Starbuck Power Project. Scoping. Oct. 5.

Wallula-McNary Power Line and Wallula Power Project. Scoping. Oct. 5.

Umatilla Generating Project. Draft EIS. Oct. 15.

Santiam-Bethel Transmission. Preliminary EA. Oct. 18.

Horse Heaven Wind Project EIS. Scoping. Nov. 14.

If you have questions or comments, or to be added to the mailing list for any project, call (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 1-800-622-4519.

The *Journal* is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics.  Indicates a document is available. To order documents, call: 800-622-4520 or (503) 230-7334. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. E-mail address: comment@BPA.gov BPA home page: <http://www.bpa.gov>. For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/Projects>.

Process Abbreviations: EA – Environmental Assessment, EIS – Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact, ROD – Record of Decision, SA – Supplement Analysis.