

# JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

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## CCC TAPS KID POWER

BPA is bringing kid power to the Community Conservation Challenge. The challenge is offering its full-service utility customers a "Classroom-in-a-Box" of energy conservation lesson plans and materials. Customers work with local schools to see which ones would like to use the syllabus, then order copies of the box for them. Fourth graders color sheets that make up a mural of energy-saving opportunities, then discuss what changes families could make at home. Teachers can take a photo of their class with the mural and enter the picture in a contest to win more student workbooks, a poster and stickers related to conservation. In November, Classroom-in-a-Box activities will be on the BPA Web site at [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov) for anyone who wants to download them.

## BPA CUTS CD FOR SCHOOLS

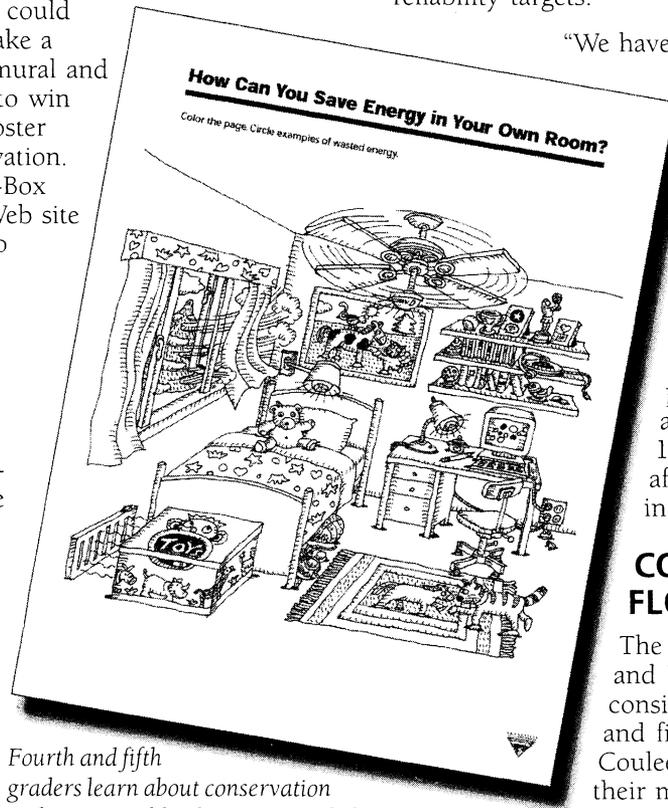
BPA has packaged its entire collection of K-12 education materials on a convenient CD-ROM. Copies are available free to teachers in Northwest schools by calling BPA's public information office at 1-800-622-4520. "The Power of Learning...the Power of the Columbia" includes everything from photos of federal Columbia River dams to complete curricula on the science behind electricity to coloring pages for kindergartners.

"Most of these materials are on our Web site at [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov), but not everyone finds it easy to go there," said education coordinator Phyllis Evans. "The CD offers a simple way for teachers to help their students understand their power system and the resources of the Columbia River."

## WINTER READINESS LOOKS IMPROVED

The Pacific Northwest will have an adequate supply of electricity this winter thanks to actions taken this year, staff told the Northwest Power Planning Council in

October. The probability of deficits this winter has fallen from over 12 percent in an analysis last May to less than 1 percent today, the Council's staff said. They cited three reasons for the improved outlook: combined efforts by BPA, states, consumers and industry have paid off in "unprecedented" levels of load reduction; new generation is up and running; and federal agencies, in coordination with BC Hydro, have stored water in Canadian reservoirs to meet reliability targets.



Fourth and fifth graders learn about conservation with activities like this one provided in BPA's "Classroom in a box" curriculum program.

"We have just come through a very bad year," observed Council member Tom Karier, "with bad impacts to aluminum companies, fish, ratepayers – and the impacts were widely shared." Today, the Council agreed, the region has "moved across a threshold" and is on track for improvement. The new analysis assumes average precipitation in the water year ahead, minus 10 percent. (The 10 percent reflects lower runoff after a drought as moisture sinks in to replenish parched soil.)

## CORPS RECONSIDERS FLOOD CONTROL

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation are considering changing flood control and fish operations at Libby, Grand Coulee and Hungry Horse dams, their major storage reservoirs on the upper Columbia River. The concept is part of an environmental impact statement on flood control and fish operations in response to biological

opinions for fish listed under the Endangered Species Act. The EIS will look at ways to benefit fish in the upper basin while better assuring reservoir refill. Public meetings on issues to be addressed in the EIS are scheduled through Nov. 15 in cities near the three reservoirs and in Portland. The Corps requests written comments through Nov. 30.



## **VERNITA BAR FLOWS IN PROGRESS**

Grant County PUD is reducing water flows through Priest Rapids dam above the Hanford Reach on the Columbia River during the day and increasing them at night until Thanksgiving. The action is meant to aid the day-time spawning of fall chinook at Vernita Bar. Annual streamflow control just above the bar assures that the fish will spawn at water levels that will allow their eggs to be kept submerged through the winter. BPA will control water flows at Chief Joseph dam upstream to maintain the desired streamflows at Vernita Bar. Once spawning is complete, river operators will maintain minimum flows to cover the redds until March.

## **WIND PROPOSED FOR HORSE HEAVEN HILLS**

BPA is collecting public comments on a wind farm proposed for the Horse Heaven Hills of south central Washington. Washington Winds, Inc., proposes to build up to 225 megawatts of wind turbines and to construct a 13-mile transmission line to carry power to BPA's transmission grid. BPA proposes to buy up to 50 average megawatts of the project's power and to integrate electricity from the project into its grid. BPA held a public hearing on Oct. 29 in Kennewick, Wash., and will take written comments through Nov. 14 on issues for an environmental impact statement on the project.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, BPA must conduct environmental review of projects it proposes or enables. Because electricity from a new power plant must be integrated into the transmission grid to be useful, tying a new plant into BPA's transmission system enables a project – new generation can't be used if it can't be transmitted to loads.

## **DECISION ON NEW LOADS DELAYED**

BPA is extending and expanding public review of a policy on whether direct-service industries, such as aluminum companies, should be able to move their power service to BPA preference customers in stages without triggering status as New Large Single Loads and the higher rate that goes with those loads. BPA is now placing the issue in a broader regional discussion on the future of federal load service nationwide.

"The real question is, what should our customers expect after 2006, when current contracts expire?" said account executive David Fitzsimmons. "We're going to look at the pieces in this larger context." The broader review is slated for this fiscal year.

Under the Northwest Power Act of 1980, BPA must charge new loads larger than 10 average megawatts a "new resources" rate reflecting the cost of adding new resources to serve those loads. In June, BPA requested public comments on some unresolved questions on its policy for these "new large single loads." One issue was, and remains, whether existing DSIs could move their loads to preference customers at 9.9 aMW a year and so qualify for service at the lower priority-firm rate. Goldendale Aluminum has moved a portion of its load to Klickitat PUD and Northern Wasco. BPA is working with the parties on an agreement that will track and provide for Goldendale Aluminum to return the energy if the ultimate decision applies the higher rate to the moved load. A final decision is expected before the end of fiscal year 2002.

## **VANDALS SHOOT OUT INSULATORS – AGAIN**

BPA has been experiencing waves of vandalism on its high-voltage power lines in the Maple Valley area of King County, Wash. In the latest incident in October, vandals shot out several strings of insulators on the Raver-Covington line. A few hours later, loads were cut by 500 megawatts on the northern intertie. A line maintenance crew investigated and found that more insulators had been shot out. With an escort from the King County sheriff's office, crews replaced the newly damaged insulators.

"This is an area where there are repeat incidents of trespassing, dumping and gunshot vandalism. Raver Substation has also been the target of a drive-by shooting earlier this year," explained BPA Security Specialist Mike Berg. "We really want to see the perpetrators convicted. They are a threat to the integrity of the power system and the safety of the surrounding community." BPA has increased the reward it offers for information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals in the Maple Valley area to \$5,000.

## **RTO TOWN HALLS SLATED**

BPA's Transmission Business Line has scheduled three town hall meetings with its utility customers on regional transmission organization issues. For customer convenience, the meetings will coincide with other utility events. They'll be in Boise, Seattle and Portland on Nov. 15, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12, respectively.

# 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 is considering purchasing up to the full electrical output. Power would be integrated into the transmission grid at Glacier Electric Cooperative and Montana Power Co. facilities. No BPA construction is required. A draft EIS is expected in spring 2002.

### **Cliffs 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 Harvalum Substation. Klickitat County issued a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance in May. 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 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. The project is on hold while the tribe reevaluates its proposal based on Power Planning Council comments.

### **Condon Wind Project EIS, Gilliam Co., Ore.**

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. proposes to build and operate an 83-unit, 49.8-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 is expected to be issued soon.

### **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 <http://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 EIS 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 12 miles of transmission line to interconnect with BPA's

transmission grid. Scoping is in progress. Comments will be taken until Nov. 14.

### **Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Recovery 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, 2001.

### **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 on 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 the many new generating projects considered for this area, and to reinforce transmission reliability. Scoping closed on June 7. The draft EIS is expected out for review in early February 2002.

### **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>.

### **NEW! Mint Farm Generation Project, Longview, Wash.**

BPA is considering intergrating power from Mint Farm Generation's proposed 319-megawatt combined-cycle combustion turbine near Longview, Wash. BPA would build and operate about

# MORE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

a quarter mile of new 230-kV transmission line. A record of decision is expected later this year.

## **Mountain Lakes Trout Restoration Project EA, Flathead National Forest, Mont.**

BPA proposes to fund a project to remove exotic trout from selected lakes in the South and Middle forks of the Flathead drainage and replace them with genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. Call to be added to the mail list.

## **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 a double-circuit 230-kV line. 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 from a new single-circuit line to a rebuilt double-circuit line. The preliminary EA comment period closed Oct. 18, 2001. A final EA is expected late this year.

## **Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project EIS, near Ellensburg to near the Hanford Reservation, Wash.**

BPA proposes 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. 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 has the lead for environmental review of the generation project; BPA has the lead on integrating transmission. About 50 people attended a public scoping meeting Oct. 3. A draft EIS is expected in January 2002. See <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/starbuck.html>.

## **TransAlta Centralia LLC Big Hanaford Generation Project, Lewis Co., Wash.**

BPA will offer contract terms for integrating power from the TransAlta Centralia LLC Big Hanaford Project, a 248-megawatt gas-fired combined-cycle combustion-turbine power generation project, into the transmission grid. For a copy of the Record of Decision go to:  
<http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/TransAlta>.

## **Umatilla Generating Project EIS, Umatilla Co., Ore.**

Umatilla Generating Co., LP, proposes to build 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 on the DEIS are being accepted now.

## **Wallula-McNary Transmission Line/Wallula 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. A draft EIS is expected in January 2002. See <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/wallula.html>.

## **NEW! Wanapa Energy Center Generation Project EIS, Umatilla Co., Ore.**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have requested interconnection of the Wanapa Energy Center, a proposed new 1000-megawatt gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine power generation project, into the transmission grid. The project would be located on land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribes. The Bureau of Indian Affairs intends to prepare an environmental impact statement on the project (see 66 Fed. Reg. 53430, Oct. 22, 2001) and BPA has requested to be a cooperating agency. BIA will hold public meetings on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 at the Tamaststlikt Cultural Institute from 5-8 p.m., and on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 at the Hermiston Community Center from 5-8 p.m. BIA expects to release the draft EIS in April 2002.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSES**

### **Watershed Management EIS:**

- Acquire Tucannon River Water Rights, Wash. (SA-65)
- Install Fish Screens to Protect ESA Listed Steelhead and Bull Trout in the Walla Walla Basin, Wash. (SA-67)
- Mill Creek and Little Creek Crossing, Ore. (SA-68)
- Water Right Acquisition Program, Ore. (SA-66)
- Yakima Basin Side Channels, Scatter Creek/Plum Creek Land Acquisition Phase I, Wash. (SA-70)
- Yakima Basin Side Channels, Easton Reach Land Acquisition, Wash. (SA-64)
- Wildlife Management Program EIS:**  
Eugene Wetlands Acquisition Phase II, Ore. (SA-18)
- Vegetation Management Program EIS:**  
Along Marion-Alvey #1, Eugene, Ore. (SA-27)

## **CLOSE OF COMMENT**

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](mailto: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.

