

# JOURNAL

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Web site: [www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/journal](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/journal)

## Chinook run sets NW record

As of Sept. 26, 606,076 fall chinook had passed Bonneville Dam setting a new record – and they'll count through mid-November. The previous record was set last year at nearly 515,000. The latest estimates are that 614,000 fish will pass Bonneville Dam. Coho and steelhead returns are also strong and rising.

Sept. 20 also marked a new single-day record at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River, where 862 fall chinook were tallied. The counts of adult and immature adult chinook at Lower Granite Dam are several times the 10-year average.

## BiOp check in: actions on track and working

Salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River basin have made dramatic rebounds in their abundance. Most of the runs in the past two years are many times their 10-year averages, and the make-up of the 2003 runs indicates strong runs are likely in 2004.

Those are some of the conclusions in the 2003 Check-In Report issued by the Federal Columbia River Power System agencies that are responsible for implementing the 2000 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion. Those agencies are BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The BiOp requires the agencies to provide to NOAA Fisheries an assessment of their performance in six specific areas. The report was issued Sept. 29.

"We believe that overall implementation of the NOAA Fisheries BiOp is on track," the three federal agencies wrote. They said further that a majority of the hundreds of actions they've agreed to implement to conserve jeopardized fish are under way.

In general, the agencies' report says the status of Columbia River basin salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act is improved over conditions prior to the BiOp, three years ago. In particular, the

report states, seven of eight species listed as jeopardized are showing significant improvement. The one exception is Snake River sockeye whose population is listed as precarious.

The check-in report says that a dominant cause of the increasing fish runs appears to be a turnaround in ocean productivity. "This improved ocean environment can

enhance our efforts to improve conditions for salmon and steelhead in freshwater," the federal agencies noted. They concluded that improved fish passage at Columbia and Snake River dams and better habitat, hatchery, and harvest practices are also contributing. In many places the adult fish are encountering improved spawning habitat and the potential for even greater runs in the future continues to improve.

The check-in report concludes, "Where problems have developed, most have been delays rather than inaction, caused by the nature of regional coordination, funding or environmental review processes."

## Salmon Crossroads conference called

Record salmon runs for the past several years have spawned questions about what the records mean for future salmon runs and conservation programs in the region.

To explore the questions, Energy NewsData publications, BPA and a group of northwest utilities, industries, associations and federal agencies have called a conference for Nov. 14 in Portland, Ore.

Topics scheduled for discussion include perceptions, realities and current status of Columbia Basin salmon



*Fall chinook crowd a creek near Bonneville Dam at the height of their record run.*



runs, the science and cost of recovery programs and what might be future steps and possible new directions.

Further information is available on the Internet at [www.newsdata.com/conf/](http://www.newsdata.com/conf/).

## **BPA, customers talk lawsuit settlement**

BPA's power rates go up 2.2 percent Oct. 1 as scheduled, but settlement of a lawsuit still could ratchet them back. While parties have not yet agreed to a settlement, talks are sufficiently encouraging for BPA to discuss how a settlement would be implemented if reached.

In a September workshop, BPA outlined a 120-day procedure to allow customers to sign on to a proposed settlement. If a settlement were finalized soon, BPA's rates would roll back so that resulting 2004 power rates would average about 7 percent lower than average 2003 rates. Wholesale power customers would get rebates on the bills they paid at the higher rates. The rate reduction and rebates would occur when a settlement is final.

The lawsuit involves the level of federal power and financial benefits flowing to residential and small-farm customers of Northwest investor-owned utilities. BPA's publicly owned utility customers challenged BPA's decisions over the terms of the agency's subscription contracts with the IOUs.

BPA annual payments to the IOUs have increased from about \$70 million in the years 1997-2001 to an average of over \$400 million per year in 2002-2006.

## **Lines to move from tribal land**

BPA, the Nisqually tribe, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Army are cooperating on a proposal to move two BPA transmission lines from a corner of the Nisqually Reservation, located on the Nisqually River in rural Thurston County, 15 miles east of Olympia, Wash.

BPA has an existing transmission line corridor across the reservation and a portion of the Fort Lewis military base on the northern edge of State Route 510. The proposal calls for removing about a mile of each line and relocating them onto Fort Lewis the south side of the highway.

"The project can help both the Nisquallys and BPA," said project manager Gary Beck. "The tribe wants to use the highway frontage now occupied by our lines in their future community development. Our easement for one of these lines is about to expire. Moving the second line along with the first will allow the tribe to make use of the land and it's more cost effective to move them at the same time."

BPA and the tribe are working together to fund the project. A land swap involving the tribe, Thurston County and the Army would help solidify property needed for the transmission line move as well as for future tribal community development.

A public scoping meeting to gather community input about the project will be held in October. Details on the time and place can be obtained by calling (888) 276-7790 or logging on to the BPA Transmission Business Line Web site: [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

## **Towers fly to Kangley-Echo Lake line**

Helicopters buzz around the Cedar River Watershed southeast of Seattle, carrying logs out and construction materials in as BPA's Kangley-Echo Lake 500-kilovolt transmission line project moves forward.

BPA anticipates marking an important milestone in the project during the first week of October. As state, county and Seattle city officials watch on Oct. 7, a powerful helicopter will lift tower sections into the air and toward the corridor for placement on their footings. "Our helicopter contractor can place 10 to 12 towers a day under the right conditions," BPA project manager Lou Driessen said. "The aerial work placing about 40 towers should take about three days and be done by Oct 8." Driessen noted that cranes would erect six heavy-duty towers.

Kangley-Echo Lake is a nine-mile-long transmission line extending from a point near the town of Kangley, about 30 miles southeast of Seattle, northward to the Echo Lake Substation, which is being expanded to handle additional power flow. The new line will pass through a widened corridor alongside an existing line. Both lines cross through the Cedar River watershed, which provides greater Seattle with much of its municipal water.

As tower steel is flown to the southern end of the line, loggers are completing tree clearing at the northern end. Driessen noted that the helicopter-aided logging has made a big difference to the project's environmental goals as well as its schedule. "We've committed to significant measures to protect the watershed," Driessen said. "The helicopter logging helps reduce debris and dust. We're also leaving some of the snags and stumps for animal habitat, keeping our vehicles clean and constantly monitoring the quality of the water."

The \$45 million project should be finished by the end of this year in time to provide greater electrical reliability to the Puget Sound area as well as to meet treaty obligations with Canada.

## **BPA names new managers**

Therese Lamb has been named vice president for Environment, Fish and Wildlife. Lamb has been acting in the position for the past nine months.

Prior to Lamb's appointment to the acting vice presidency, she was special assistant to the administrator for fish and wildlife strategy and manager of BPA's Power Operations Planning. The latter organization is a principal BPA partner in achieving the hydro system's fish and wildlife enhancement objectives.

Subsequently, Lamb named Terry Larson to a one-year temporary position as director of BPA's fish and wildlife program.

Larson moves from the BPA Power Business Line where she has worked in Marketing and Scheduling. She'll hold the Fish and Wildlife position while former manager Sara McNary concentrates on crafting BPA's revisions to the NOAA Fisheries biological opinion. A federal judge ordered revisions to the BiOp within a year, stating that some of the salmon recovery programs were not reasonably certain to occur.

Administrator Steve Wright has appointed Eric H. Larson as the first chief risk officer of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Larson previously served as a senior executive in risk management, strategic planning and trading positions with Entergy Corp. in Texas and Louisiana.

The chief risk officer will focus on ensuring that business decisions account for the appropriate elements of risk. In the past few years, risks have ranged from volatile wholesale energy prices to wide variations in water years.

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT Updates and Notices

## NEW PROJECTS

### **Nisqually Line Relocation – Thurston County, Wash.**

BPA is proposing to relocate two miles of transmission line corridor off the Nisqually Indian Reservation in Thurston County, Wash. BPA has an existing transmission line corridor across the reservation and a portion of the Fort Lewis military base just north of State Route 510. This corridor contains two transmission lines: the Olympia-Grand Coulee 287-kV line and the Olympia-South Tacoma 230-kV line. This relocation is being proposed because the 50-year easement for one of the lines on the reservation has expired. A public scoping meeting will be held in October 2003. The date has not been confirmed. Please see [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) or call toll-free 1-888-276-7790 for questions or more information.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE – ONGOING PROJECTS

### **Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS – Regionwide**

This EIS examines potential impacts of implementing and funding alternative fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in regional processes. BPA has developed a preferred alternative using regional guidance. The three-volume FEIS is available in CD or hard copy format. A ROD is expected this fall. See <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/FishWildlifeImplementation> for more information.

### **Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EIS – Wallowa and Union counties, Ore.**

Fish trapping, incubation, rearing and release hatchery facilities would be built to help boost spring chinook salmon populations in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha river basins of Northeast Oregon. Planned facilities would modify and augment existing Lower Snake River Compensation Plan facilities. The DEIS is available on CD, in hard copy or online at [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov) under links to environmental analysis/planning and active projects. Public review and comment period ended July 7, 2003. Responses and an FEIS are being prepared.

### **Hanford Reach National Monument CCP/EIS – Benton, Franklin and Grant counties, Wash.**

BPA is participating as a cooperating agency in a land management planning process being led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS seeks to develop a comprehensive conservation plan as required by the Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. BPA is providing information and writing sections of the plan that pertain to transmission facilities, roads, energy facilities and river management within the monument. A DEIS is scheduled for release in June 2004.

### **Salmon Creek EIS – Okanogan County, Wash.**

BPA proposes to fund a project to enhance fish habitat and fish passage and to increase instream flows in 4.3 miles of lower Salmon Creek, a tributary of the Okanogan River. The project would

rehabilitate the stream channel, revegetate stream banks and increase streamflows. A DEIS is scheduled for release in fall 2003.

### **South Fork Flathead Watershed/Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program EIS – Flathead National Forest, Mont.**

BPA proposes to fund a project to remove exotic trout species from selected lakes in the South Fork of the Flathead drainage. BPA is preparing an EIS. Additional information is available at [www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/efw/E/Welcome.cgi](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/efw/E/Welcome.cgi).

## POWER – ONGOING PROJECTS

### **BPA's Power Supply Role After 2006 – Regionwide**

A regional discussion regarding how BPA will market power and share the costs and benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System in the Pacific Northwest after 2006 is proceeding at a slower pace. BPA and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council are jointly planning a restart of the regional discussions that will include ample opportunity for public comment. Please refer to BPA's Web site at [www.bpa.gov/power/regionaldialogue](http://www.bpa.gov/power/regionaldialogue) for up-to-date information, or contact Jenifer Scott at (503) 230-7685.

### **Safety Net Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause (SN CRAC) Adjustment to 2002 Wholesale Power Rates – Regionwide**

The Record of Decision under the National Environmental Policy Act is available at [www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin).

### **Summit/Westward – Columbia County, Ore.**

Westward Energy L.L.C. requested interconnection for the proposed Summit/Westward Project, a 520-MW combustion turbine project to be located in Columbia County, approximately 4.5 miles north of Clatskanie, Ore. The project would interconnect at BPA's Allston Substation. A tiered ROD to the Business Plan EIS was completed in July 2003.

## TRANSMISSION – ONGOING PROJECTS

### **Bonneville-Alcoa Access Road Project EA – Skamania County, Wash.**

BPA proposes to establish a half-mile-long access road along the Bonneville-Alcoa 115-kV transmission line. The proposed road is located approximately 3.5 miles west of Skamania, Wash. The preliminary EA was released July 2003. The final EA will be released in October 2003.

### **BP Cherry Point Cogeneration Project Interconnection EIS – Whatcom County, Wash.**

BP West Coast Products LLC has requested interconnection of its proposed 720-MW combustion turbine project at its Cherry Point Refinery near the community of Birch Bay, Wash. The project may require rebuilding an existing single-circuit 230-kV transmission line to double circuit from Cherry Point to Custer Substation and is

subject to Washington energy facility siting processes. BPA and Washington EFSEC are developing a joint SEPA/NEPA DEIS, which is scheduled for release this summer. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information. (See calendar of events.)

#### **COB Energy Facility Interconnect EIS – Klamath County, Ore.**

Peoples Energy Resources Corp. has requested interconnection of its proposed 1,200-MW combustion turbine project at a site near Bonanza in Klamath County, Ore. The project would require a new 500-kV transmission line to BPA's Captain Jack Substation. The project is subject to Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council certification. The DEIS is scheduled for release this fall. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information.

#### **Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line – Spokane and Lincoln counties, Wash.**

Construction is under way on the rebuilding of 84 miles of an existing 115-kV wood-pole transmission line with a new, higher capacity 500-kV steel lattice line. The transmission line corridor between the Grand Coulee and Bell substations currently contains two 115-kV transmission lines on two wood-pole structures and three 230-kV transmission lines on two steel lattice structures. The existing transmission lines cannot reliably move power from existing generation sources east of Spokane to the west. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information and construction photos.

#### **Kangley-Echo Lake 500-kV Transmission Line Project – King County, Wash.**

Construction is underway on the Schultz-Echo Lake 500-kV transmission line. The line will connect to an existing transmission line near Kangley to BPA's Echo Lake Substation in western Washington. The project is needed to improve transmission system reliability and to enhance BPA's ability to meet treaty obligations with Canada. The new nine-mile-long transmission line will parallel an existing BPA transmission line in central King County, Wash. Five miles of the line cross the Cedar River Municipal Watershed, which is the source for much of the city of Seattle's drinking water. BPA and the city of Seattle reached an agreement on the project and are working together to ensure protection of the watershed during construction. Construction is scheduled to be complete by late December 2003. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information and construction photos.

#### **Plymouth Generating Facility EIS – Benton County, Wash.**

Plymouth Energy requested interconnection of its proposed 307-MW combustion turbine project near Plymouth in Benton County, Wash. BPA prepared a joint NEPA/SEPA EIS with Benton County. A DEIS was released in August 2002, and an FEIS was released in June 2003. A record of decision is expected in October 2003. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information.

#### **Raymond-Cosmopolis 115-kV Transmission Line EA – Grays Harbor and Pacific counties, Wash.**

BPA proposes to rebuild an existing 115-kV transmission line between Raymond and Cosmopolis, roughly parallel to Highway 101. Most of the 18-mile-long line will remain in the existing right-of-way. The preliminary EA was released for public review in February. The comment period ended Feb. 26. Public meetings were held Feb. 11 in Cosmopolis and Feb. 12 in Raymond. The final EA was released Sept. 5, 2003. Line construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2004 and be completed by fall 2004. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information.

#### **Schultz-Wautoma Area 500-kV Line Project – near Ellensburg to near the Hanford Reservation, Wash.**

BPA proposes to build a new 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to the new Wautoma Substation southwest of the Hanford Monument. An FEIS was released in February. The ROD was released in March 2003. Construction on the new Wautoma Substation began May 5, 2003. Construction of the Sickler-Schultz portion of the line is scheduled to begin in winter 2004. Major line construction is now scheduled to start in the fall of 2004, be completed by winter 2005 and energized by spring 2006. See [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/) for more information and construction photos.

#### **Wanapa Energy Center Generation Project EIS – Umatilla County, Ore.**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation requested interconnection of the Wanapa Energy Center, a proposed 1,300-MW gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine project, into the transmission grid. The project would be located on tribal trust land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs plans to publish a DEIS in October 2003, a FEIS in March 2004 and a ROD in April 2004. BPA is participating as a cooperating agency.

## **SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES**

### **Watershed Management Program EIS**

- SA-117 – Umatilla River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project – Stroud Creek Stabilization. Umatilla County, Ore.
- SA-118 – Crims Island Parcel Acquisition – Preserve and Restore Columbia River Estuary Islands to Enhance Juvenile Salmonid and Columbia White-tailed Deer Habitat. Columbia County, Ore.
- SA-119 – Protect and Restore the Asotin Creek Watershed – Lick Subwatershed Road Obliteration. Asotin County, Wash.
- SA-120 – Water Entity (Consolidated Water Right Acquisitions 2003). Walla Walla, Yakima, and Methow basins, Wash.; Willamette and Deschutes basins, Oregon; Salmon basin, Idaho; Blackfoot and Bitterroot basins, Mont.
- SA-121 – Reducing Water Temperature on the Teanaway River. Kittitas County, Wash.
- SA-122 – Big Creek Passage and Screening. Kittitas County, Wash.
- SA-123 – East Fork Holistic Restoration – Salmon River East Fork (SEF) 10 & 11. Custer County, Idaho

### **Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS**

- SA-34 – Asotin Creek Watershed, Washington – Schlee Acquisition. Asotin County, Wash.
- SA-35 – Malheur Wildlife Mitigation Project – Denny Jones Ranch. Malheur County, Ore.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **BP Cherry Point Public Comment Meeting**

- Wed. Oct. 1 – 6:30 to 9 p.m. Blaine Performing Arts Center, 975 H Street, Blaine, Wash.

### **Non-Construction Alternatives Round Table**

- Wed. Oct. 1 – 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. BPA headquarters, Rates Hearing Room, 905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.
- Thurs. Oct. 2 – 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. BPA headquarters, Rates Hearing Room, 905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

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

To order copies of documents, call: 1-800-622-4520 or (503) 230-7334. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428. 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, EFSEC-Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, EFSC-Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, DEIS-Draft Environmental Impact Statement, FEIS-Final Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision, SA-Supplement Analysis.

