

JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

May 2004

Web site: www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Journal/

Save a salmon — go fishing

Fishing in the Columbia and Snake rivers this spring and summer could be very rewarding for those who pursue the northern pikeminnow. The 2004 sport reward program opens on the lower Columbia River May 3 and upstream into the Snake River on May 17.

The Northern Pikeminnow Management Program will pay \$4 to \$6 for each of these salmon-eating predators delivered by fishers to stations along the Columbia and Snake rivers. The only limit is that each fish submitted must be at least nine inches long.

The more fish anglers catch, the more they are worth. The first 100 bring \$4 each. The next 300 are worth \$5 each and after 400 are turned in, they're worth \$6 each. Specially tagged pikeminnow will be worth \$100 each. Anglers have averaged several hundred dollars during a season; the top 25 have made from \$5,000 to \$20,000 fishing for pikeminnow.

The object of the program is to reduce the average size of the pikeminnow in the rivers. Smaller fish eat fewer salmon smolts, allowing more smolts to migrate to the sea. Since 1990, more than two million northern pikeminnow have been removed from the Columbia and Snake rivers as a result of the sport reward program.

BPA has funded the Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program because pikeminnow in the Columbia and Snake rivers could consume more than 10 million juvenile salmon a year. In 2003, about 200,000 pikeminnow were caught. If these fish had remained

in the rivers throughout their life span of six to eight years, they could have devoured more than 14 million young salmon.

BPA-IOU agreement would reduce rate costs

BPA, PacifiCorp and Puget Sound Energy have agreed on terms to modify their existing power contracts in a

way that will cut BPA's costs by \$100 million and defer another \$100 million in costs until 2007-2011. If concluded, the proposed agreement will result in BPA power rates 6 percent lower than they otherwise would be in fiscal years 2005-2006.

"This proposal is the single greatest action we can take to help our rates situation for next year," Administrator Steve Wright said. The agreement would capture some of the benefits contained in a litigation settlement that failed in

January without requiring publicly owned utilities to dismiss their litigation.

For their part, the two investor-owned utilities would get certainty about the range of benefits they will receive from BPA for their residential and small-farm ratepayers in 2007-2011. If this agreement goes forward, BPA would offer the same terms for fiscal years 2007-2011 financial benefits to four other Northwest investor-owned utilities. BPA is taking comment on the proposed agreement through May 14.



BPA crews safely pulled three-and-a-half tons of wire over a two-and-a-half mile Columbia River crossing April 20 on the Paul-Allston 500-kilovolt line. The job completed a ring of fiber optic cable to improve transmission system control and communication in the lower Columbia area. The U.S. Coast Guard closed mile 62 of the Columbia River below Longview, Wash., for the occasion. It warned in advance that water traffic would be kept clear during the stringing operation to assure safety of both BPA crews and boaters. (Photo by Sherry Lind)



BPA tests non-wires alternative on the Olympic Peninsula

A utility, two paper companies and the U.S. Navy recently helped BPA test its ability to reduce congestion on transmission lines in the Olympic Peninsula by curtailing transmission loads during times of critical peak demand.

Over four days in March, BPA purchased an average of 21.7 megawatts of peak demand reduction during each hour of a simulated event. Using an Internet-based trading platform, known as the Demand Exchange, BPA simulated severe weather and asked the four pilot participants to reduce their need for transmission services. BPA then posted an hourly price per megawatt, giving pilot participants the chance to accept, reject or counter the offer. Participants then bid to reduce their demand using backup generation or shifting loads to other hours.

“The Olympic Peninsula offered an ideal location because it is an environmentally sensitive area with increasing demand for electricity and limited transmission capacity,” Brad Miller, BPA project manager said. “We will now analyze this information to see if a demand reduction program can provide a viable alternative for postponing construction of a new transmission line.”

Summer spill decision still in the works

BPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are taking more time to consider summer spill reductions at Columbia and Snake River dams while they work on other actions, called offsets, to provide equal or better protection for salmon at lower cost. On March 30, BPA and the Corps released a preliminary proposal for a three-year test of reduced spill in July and August and offered a mitigation program to assure that the biological outcome is the same as or better than full spill. They received about 240 comments. Comments received are posted at salmonrecovery.gov/implementation. The agencies will meet with regional federal, state and tribal executives on an amended plan before making a final decision. The agencies expect to complete an amended proposal in early May and release a final decision shortly thereafter.

Speedy SnoKing crews save big bucks

The speedy cleaning of the SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake transmission line saved BPA about \$150,000 or about 30 percent of the estimated labor cost. The work, which involved scrubbing the entire 13-mile 500-kilovolt transmission line to reduce noise, had been scheduled for 14 days. But BPA's Transmission line crews finished in seven working days by mid-April.



“It was a tribute to outstanding planning, good tools and work methods and, of course, dedicated skilled employees,” said Transmission Business Line Field Services Vice President Fred Johnson.

Residents along the line have reacted positively to BPA's effort. “I'm standing on my back deck, and I have to say it: I can live with this,” resident Ted Wiegert told the Seattle Times. Measure-

ments so far show noise levels after cleaning ranging from barely detectable to about 40 decibels. Pre-cleaning noise measurements fluctuated from 40 to 54 decibels.

BPA will continue to monitor the transmission line and planned to hold a public meeting on the results and the substation solution.

BPA seeks public input in pre-rate case workshops

BPA's Transmission Business Line will hold regional workshops in June as part of its Programs In Review (PIR) public process. PIR is a pre-rate case process. BPA invites all interested parties and customers to discuss program levels proposed for fiscal years 2006 through 2007.

For more information about the Programs in Review process and the dates of upcoming meetings, see the letter enclosed with the *Journal* this month.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT Updates and Notices

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – ONGOING PROJECTS

Annual Review of the Conservation and Renewables Discount (C&RD) Program – Regionwide

The annual review process in the C&RD Manual prescribes the BPA Energy Efficiency group to solicit comments for improvements in the program. For fiscal year 2005 the comment period closed March 31,

2004. Before final decisions will be made, all comments will be compiled into one document for a 30-day public review beginning May 1, 2004. This document will be posted on the Web at http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/projects/cr_discount/index.shtml. This site also provides a link to the Regional Technical Forum, which has a list of the currently approved efficiency measures. (See close of comments.)

FISH AND WILDLIFE – ONGOING PROJECTS

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

Fish trapping, incubation, rearing and release hatchery facilities are proposed 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 <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.

Methow Valley Irrigation District Supplemental EA – Okanogan County, Wash.

BPA proposes to fund a fish screen replacement project for the Methow Valley Irrigation District in Okanogan County, Wash. The proposed screen replacement improvements, located on the Twisp and Methow rivers, are related to a proposal to rehabilitate the MVID irrigation system. BPA prepared an EA and FONSI for the larger fish screen proposal in 1997. BPA issued a preliminary EA for the current fish screen replacement proposal Dec. 4, 2003. Public comment period closed Jan. 2, 2004. A final EA and FONSI were completed in March, and are available on BPA's Web site at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/MethowValley>.

Reduction in Summer Spill Proposal – Regionwide

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and BPA, in consultation with NOAA Fisheries, released a proposal to reduce summer spill regime for a three-year period and mitigation for potential effects on the Snake and Columbia rivers. (See the story in the news section.) The proposal was released on March 30 and public comment accepted through April 7. An amended proposal and response to comments are expected in May 2004. See <http://salmonrecovery.gov> for more information.

Salmon Creek EIS – Okanogan County, Wash.

BPA proposes to fund a project to enhance fish habitat and 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 spring 2004.

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 <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/MountainLakesTrout>.

POWER – ONGOING PROJECTS

BPA's Power Supply Role After 2006 – Regionwide

BPA plans to initiate discussions later this spring regarding how it will market power and share the costs and benefits of the Federal Columbia Power River System in the Pacific Northwest after 2006. The schedule has not yet been finalized, but the discussions will provide ample opportunity for all interested parties to participate. As details of the process become available, updated information will be posted to BPA's Web site at <http://www.bpa.gov/power/regionaldialogue>.

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 in July 2003. The final EA was released in February 2004. See http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

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 state energy facility siting processes. BPA and Washington EFSEC developed a joint SEPA/NEPA DEIS, which was released September 2003. The comment period for the joint SEPA/NEPA ended Nov. 3, 2003. The final EIS is scheduled for release in spring 2004. See http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

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 was released for public review in November 2003 and the comment period ended Feb. 13, 2004. Public meetings were held Jan. 22, 2004, in conjunction with Oregon EFSC hearings. The final EIS is scheduled for release spring 2004. See http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

FERC Order 2003-A: Large Generator Interconnection – Regionwide

The Transmission Business Line held a public meeting in April to discuss its proposed compliance filing of FERC Order 2003-A. This meeting was a reschedule of a March 19, 2004, meeting due to FERC's recent release of an updated order carrying significant and numerous changes that TBL must reconsider for its proposed filing. Comments are due by May 18, 2004. More information is available at http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/Business/Customer_Forum_and_Feedback/FERC_order_2003/. Please contact tblfeedback@bpa.gov for questions or comments.

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 http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information and construction photos.

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 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 flow management within the monument. A DEIS is scheduled for release in 2004.

Nisqually Transmission Line Relocation Project EA – 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. Public scoping meetings were held Oct. 21 and Oct. 22, 2003. BPA is developing a preliminary EA scheduled for release spring 2004 and the final EA is scheduled for release fall 2004. The scoping comment period ended

Nov. 21, 2003. See 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. Public meetings were held in February and the comment period ended Feb. 26, 2003. The final EA and FONSI were released Sept. 5, 2003. Line construction began in spring 2004 and will be completed by fall 2004. See 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 is building a new 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to the new Wautoma Substation southwest of the Hanford Monument. An FEIS was released in February 2003. The ROD was released in March 2003. Construction on the new Wautoma Substation began May 5, 2003, and is nearly complete. Construction of the Sickler-Schultz portion of the line began February 2004. Fiber construction began in late January 2004. The project will be completed by November 2005. See http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information and construction photos.

SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake Project – Snohomish County, Wash.

This project allowed BPA's existing 500-kV SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Sammamish 230-kV transmission line to be reconnected to the Monroe-Echo Lake 500-kV transmission line as part of several projects known as the Puget Sound Area Additions. The SnoKing Tap to Monroe-Echo Lake 500-kV transmission line was energized to 500-kV Sept. 29, 2003. The original transmission line was constructed in the 1970s as a 500-kV line but had been operated at 230-kV until recently. An increase in ambient noise levels was anticipated but the level of concern from area residents along the transmission line and in the vicinity of the SnoKing Substation was not. BPA held a public meeting Jan. 27, 2004, to respond to public concern about the voltage and noise increase and to discuss recommendations. See http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

Transmission Business Policy EIS – Regionwide

The Transmission Business Policy EIS will look at a broad range of policy options for supporting decisions on issues related to the planning, construction, operation, marketing and maintenance of the transmission system. The Transmission Business Policy EIS will enhance BPA's understanding of the impacts its transmission policy and planning activities have on the human environment and support the agency's transmission business decisions. The scoping period began in December 2003 and closed March 31, 2004. Public scoping meetings were held in January and February. See <http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/> for more information.

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 released the DEIS in October 2003. BPA is participating as a cooperating agency. Two

public meetings were held in December 2003. The comment period ended Dec. 29, 2003. A FEIS is scheduled for spring 2004, with a ROD to follow. See <http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/> for more information.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

Watershed Management Program EIS: Watershed Management Program EIS:

- SA-137 Duck Valley Habitat Enhancement and Protection. Owyhee County, Idaho, and Elko County, Nev.
- SA-138 Duck Valley Reservoirs Fisheries Operation and Maintenance. Elko County, Nev.
- SA-139 Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – East Fork Riparian Enhancement, Garman Fence. Custer County, Idaho
- SA-140 Burlington Bottoms Wildlife Mitigation Project – Water Control Structure and Culvert Replacement. Multnomah County, Ore.
- SA-141 Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Salmon River Riparian Enhancement, Sell Fence. Lemhi County, Idaho
- SA-142 Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Goddard Habitat Project, Streambank Protection, Lemhi County, Idaho

Yakima Fisheries Project EIS:

- SA-08 New Acclimation Site for Coho Research Task Monitoring and Evaluation. Kittitas County, Wash

CLOSE OF COMMENT

- May 18, 2004 - FERC Order 2003-A: Large Generator Interconnection
- May 31, 2004 - Annual review of the Conservation and Renewables Discount (C&RD) Program

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Programs In Review

- June 11, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., 140 S. Capital Ave., Idaho Falls Power Conference Room, Idaho Falls, Idaho
- June 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2721 N. 10th Ave, Benton PUD Auditorium, Kennewick, Wash.
- June 18, 1 to 5 p.m., 106 W. Nora, Spokane Teachers Credit Union, Spokane, Wash.
- June 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tacoma Auditorium, 3628 S. 35th Street, Tacoma, Wash.
- June 25, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 911 NE 11th Ave., BPA Rates Hearing Room, Portland, Ore.
- June 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 250 A Street, Springfield Utility Boardroom, Eugene, Ore.

Non-Wires Solutions Round Table Load Forecasting Workshop

- June 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 911 NE 11th Ave., Rates Hearing Room, Portland, Ore.

Business Practices Technical Forum VII

- June 23, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Parkway Plaza One, 8100 NE Parkway Drive, Room 40, Vancouver, Wash.

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. 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.

