

journal

January 2007

www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Journal

BPA opens pocketbook for renewables

BPA will spend up to \$1 million in fiscal year 2007 to address how to generate electricity from the motion of the ocean and how to help tame the intermittent nature of wind power entering the region's electricity grid.

The agency is issuing a formal request for proposals (RFP) to the energy industry for advancement of technology that can help manage intermittent renewable power resources – such as wind energy – into the region's grid, as well as advance research on ocean wave and in-stream tidal generation technologies.

"The existing federal power system uses 31 dams and one nuclear power plant, along with some wind power, to generate emission-free, non-fossil-fuel based electricity for the Northwest," BPA Deputy Administrator Steve Hickok said. "Adding renewable wave energy to the mix, with no associated fossil fuel use or emissions, certainly would fit well with our federal power supply portfolio and could hold promise as our region's electricity needs continue to grow." It is possible additional funding may be available for subsequent years, he said.

The renewable integration portion of the RFP will help support recommendations expected in January from a wind integration study group made up of leaders from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, utilities, renewable power developers and BPA. That

group is expected to release a wind integration action plan setting out strategies to address the issues impacting the electricity grid.

To learn more about BPA's renewable energy technology roadmap and the renewable energy RFP, visit: www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/innovation.

BPA, Corps protect chum

BPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will operate the federal hydro system through February to maintain a tail water elevation of at least 13 feet below Bonn-



eville Dam to protect chum eggs and fry in a spawning area below the dam. Normally, tail water elevations below the dam are maintained at 11.7 feet from the fall chum spawning season through February. Heavy storms in November and December, however, forced higher streamflows this fall, and chum spawned higher on the bank. A higher tail water elevation will protect these higher redds (salmon nests), but increases the likelihood that BPA will have to purchase power during the winter to meet its loads should extended dry or cold periods reduce natural streamflows.

BPA to settle Transmission rate case

BPA's Transmission Services has reached tentative agreement with parties to the 2008-2009 Transmission rate case settlement negotiation process. Transmission sent the resulting settlement agreement to all transmission customers and interested parties on Dec. 1.

Customers are asked to return a signed agreement to BPA by Jan. 5. BPA will determine at that time whether there is adequate support of the settlement to enable Transmission to countersign. The settlement will result in no aggregate rate change from FY 2006-2007 rates along with several other key components.

The Federal Register notice is scheduled to be published by Jan. 22 and a pre-hearing conference is planned for the week of Feb.12.



Reward offered for substation burglary

BPA is offering up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who burglarized BPA's Covington Substation in Kent, Wash., off Covington Road SE.

Investigators estimate the break-in occurred sometime between the evening hours of Dec. 5 and the early morning hours of Dec. 6. The King County Sheriff's Office is actively investigating the crime.

After gaining illegal access to the substation, the perpetrator(s) rifled through two maintenance vehicles and stole various materials, including nine 50-foot, yellow-jacketed, copper personal protective grounds. Replacement cost for the materials is about \$4,250.

Metal theft has increased significantly over the past several months due in large part to the high price of metals on the salvage market; more than 50 burglaries have occurred at BPA substations this year.

Through its Crime Witness Program, BPA offers up to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals committing crimes against BPA facilities. Anyone having such information should call BPA's Crime Witness Hotline at (800) 437-2744. The line is confidential, and rewards are issued in such a way that the caller's identity remains confidential.

BPA supports ColumbiaGrid agreement

Later this month, BPA will join a number of Pacific Northwest electric utilities in signing the Planning and Expansion Functional Agreement, a regional transmission expansion plan proposed by ColumbiaGrid.

ColumbiaGrid is a non-profit regional transmission entity formed to improve the operational efficiency, reliability and expansion of the transmission grid.

ColumbiaGrid is conferring with state regulatory commissions, regional transmission owners and other parties interested in transmission planning and expansion to gain additional participation in and support for the agreement. The agreement will be offered for signature at the Board's next meeting on Jan. 17, 2007, in Portland.

"This draft Planning and Expansion Functional Agreement is a large stride forward for needed regional transmission development," said Jon Kaake, ColumbiaGrid's new president and chief executive officer.



BPA employees give to the community

Over the Christmas holiday, hundreds of children in the Portland metro area tightly hugged teddy bears and toys that their parents and guardians could not afford. In addition to the toys, employees donated hundreds of pounds of pet food and more than \$240,942 in cash to local charities.

publicinvolvement

updates and notices

AGENCY – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

ColumbiaGrid – Regionwide

ColumbiaGrid accepted comments on a draft Planning and Expansion Functional Agreement through Dec. 7. BPA also accepted comments on its potential participation in this Functional Agreement through Nov. 29. BPA considered the comments received to submit its own comments to ColumbiaGrid. BPA indicated support for a final Planning and Expansion Functional Agreement. ColumbiaGrid hopes to offer a finalized agreement to regional parties in January. The agreement would become effective for the initiating parties 60 days after the offer. Other qualified entities may sign later. ColumbiaGrid members are continuing their efforts to develop additional functional agreements.

BPA and six other utilities supporting ColumbiaGrid are funding this new organization's development. See BPA's Web site: www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/restructuring/ for more information on its participation. For the complete draft ColumbiaGrid Planning and Expansion Functional Agreement, and information about ColumbiaGrid's public review process, see www.columbiagrid.org/?page_id=409.

FCRPS Revised Draft Systemwide Programmatic Agreement – Regionwide

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and BPA (lead federal agencies) have released a Federal Columbia River Power System Revised Draft Systemwide Programmatic Agreement. It covers the management of historic properties affected by the multi-purpose operations of 14 of the dam/reservoir projects within the FCRPS. It provides the systemwide principles and commitments for the lead federal agencies, and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The comment period is open until Jan. 19. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/culturalresources.aspx. (See Close of Comment)

Supplement Analysis to the Business Plan EIS – Regionwide

BPA is preparing a Supplement Analysis to its Business Plan EIS, scheduled for release this winter. For a copy of the Supplement Analysis, or for more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/bpsa.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program – Okanogan County, Wash.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council recommended that BPA study a program sponsored by the Confederated Colville Tribes to assist in conservation and recovery of summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. This program would include a new hatchery near the base of Chief Joseph Dam and acclimation ponds throughout the Okanogan River subbasin. The EIS also will consider use of the proposed facilities to reintroduce spring chinook salmon to historical habitats in the Okanogan subbasin on an experimental basis. The program includes production to augment the ceremonial and subsistence harvest of salmon for the Confederated Colville Tribes. This program would be designed to have no effect on the operational flexibility of Chief Joseph Dam. A draft EIS for public comment is planned for this winter. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project – Klickitat County, Wash.

BPA is preparing an EIS for the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project. The draft EIS scheduled for release May 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program, Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project – Wallowa County, Ore.

BPA has conducted value engineering, land acquisition and final design according to the ROD signed March 11, 2005. Several minor changes to facility features and sites resulted, so additional environmental analysis was conducted that included Endangered Species Act compliance, cultural resources surveys and hydrologic effects. No substantial new environmental effects or public issues are anticipated by the changes. A Supplemental Analysis was completed March 23, 2006, which found that a supplemental EIS was not warranted by the minor changes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries have concurred that the original ESA consultation remains valid. A ROD authorizing construction is planned for this winter. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Ronde/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Regional Dialogue – Regionwide

BPA is currently working on preparing the Long-Term Regional Dialogue final policy and ROD. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.bpa.gov/power/regionaldialogue.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Caribou-Lower Valley Project – Caribou County, Idaho

BPA is proposing to build, own, operate and maintain a new 138/115-kilovolt substation near a proposed PacifiCorp substation near Soda Springs, Idaho. BPA would connect to PacifiCorp's new substation to improve service to Lower Valley Energy. Lower Valley Energy would construct, own and operate a new 20-mile double-circuit 115-kV transmission line from BPA's new substation to a tap on the Lower Valley Energy transmission system between Lanes Creek and Valley substations. Lower Valley Energy would work with BPA to acquire all land and rights-of-way for the 115-kV line. Field work and design are planned for spring 2007. BPA expects to release a draft EA in fall or winter 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Hanford Reach National Monument CCP/EIS – Benton, Franklin and Grant Counties, Wash.

BPA is participating in a land management planning process led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. USFWS is working on a comprehensive conservation plan under the Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. BPA is helping with sections of the plan that pertain to transmission facilities, roads, energy facilities and river flow management within the monument. A draft EIS was released to the public Dec. 8. BPA is accepting comments through Feb. 23. (See Close of Comment)

Libby (Flathead Electric Cooperative)-to-Troy Section of the Libby-to-Bonnors Ferry 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild – Lincoln County, Mont.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a 17-mile-long section of the Libby-to-Bonnors Ferry 115-kilovolt transmission line to improve its reliability and meet future load growth in Lincoln County, Mont. BPA is analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed project and the comments received during the scoping process. BPA expects to issue a draft EIS early 2007. Comments were accepted through Oct. 30, 2005. For more information and the latest update to stakeholders, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Olympic Peninsula Reinforcement Project – Thurston and Mason Counties, Wash.

BPA is proposing to remove 14.5 miles of a portion of an existing 115-kilovolt transmission line between Olympia and Shelton substations and replace it with a double-circuit, 230-kV line and add equipment at the two substations. This will improve voltage stability during winter-peak load conditions on the Olympic Peninsula. BPA will complete an EA on the proposed project. The preliminary EA is scheduled to be released in summer 2007. If BPA decides to proceed with this project, construction could begin in late 2007. This month BPA will host two public scoping meetings to seek public feedback on the proposal in Olympia and Shelton, Wash. BPA will be accepting comments through Jan. 24, 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/. (See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment)

Port Angeles/Juan de Fuca Transmission Project – Port Angeles, Wash.

Olympic Converter LP has requested interconnection to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System of a 550-MW transmission cable across the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Vancouver Island, B.C., to Port Angeles, Wash. The draft EIS is expected to be released this winter. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Programs in Review – Regionwide

The 2006 PIR process will set planned spending levels which become the foundation for the revenue requirement in the Transmission rate case. BPA accepted comments on the program levels through Sept. 7 and issued a draft letter to customers and stakeholders for comment in November, prior to issuing a final closeout. The final letter will be released soon. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/business/Customer%5FForums%5Fand%5FFeedback/Programs_in_Review/pir2006.cfm.

Shepherds Flat Wind Farm Interconnection Project – Gilliam and Morrow Counties, Ore.

Lifeline Renewable Energy, Inc., requested interconnection of up to 750 megawatts of power generated from the proposed Shepherds Flat Wind Farm that would be located in Gilliam and Morrow Counties, Ore. BPA proposes to interconnect up to 750 MW by expanding the existing Slatt Substation in Gilliam County. BPA will analyze project impacts in a tiered ROD under

the Business Plan EIS. The ROD is scheduled to be completed in 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Summer Falls/Main Canal Interconnection Project – Grant and Douglas Counties, Wash.

BPA proposes to interconnect 122 megawatts of generation from Summer Falls and Main Canal hydropower projects to the federal transmission grid. BPA proposes to construct a new 230-kilovolt substation (Pinto Ridge) in Grant County and a new communications site (Banks Lake) in Douglas County to complete the interconnection by 2008. Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power requested the interconnection. They also requested that BPA construct 6 miles of new 115-kV transmission line between Main Canal and the new Pinto Ridge Substation, three miles of new 115-kV transmission line between Summer Falls and Pinto Ridge, and their new 115-kV substation adjacent to the proposed substation. Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power would own these facilities. BPA, Seattle and Tacoma plan to work cooperatively to complete a combined state and National Environmental Policy Act process and associated environmental compliance. A public meeting was held in August. Comments were accepted through Sept. 24. An additional meeting will be held in Coulee City, Wash., in late January. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/. When the date of the meeting has been set, the information will be added to the site.

Windy Point Wind Interconnection – Klickitat County, Wash.

BPA will interconnect up to 250 MW from Windy Point Partners LLC. This wind project would interconnect at the Rock Creek Substation, now under construction. Two groups filed an appeal to the county's SEPA determination. A settlement agreement was signed by the developer and the appellants on Nov. 3, 2006. Under the settlement, the developer has agreed to fund a habitat conservation set aside program to be set up with an institutional nonprofit organization. A tiered ROD was signed on Nov. 29, 2006. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project – Sherman County, Ore.

BPA will interconnect the Klondike III and Biglow Canyon wind projects in Sherman County, Ore. The ROD was signed on Oct. 25, 2006. Construction has begun on the John Day Substation and construction of the transmission line will begin May 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Rock Creek Substation – Klickitat County, Wash.

Rock Creek Substation is under construction and will be complete in fall 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Tucannon River-North Lewiston 115-kV Transmission Line – Garfield County, Wash., and Nez Perce County, Idaho

Construction on the Tucannon River-North Lewiston transmission line is complete. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

To view copies of the supplement analyses, visit the link provided.

Watershed Management Program

www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Watershed_Management/

- SA-285 Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program – Diversion 31 Fish Screen Project, North Fork Ahtanum Creek, Yakima County, Wash.
- SA-286 Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program – Upper Lust Fish Passage Project, South Fork Cowiche Creek, Yakima County, Wash.
- SA-287 Idaho Fish Screening Improvement – Wimpey Creek Projects, Lemhi County, Idaho

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Olympic Peninsula Reinforcement Project Scoping Meeting

Jan. 10, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Black Lake Elementary School Library, 6345 Black Lake Belmore Road, S.W., Olympia, Wash.

Jan. 11, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Shelton Civic Center, 525 W. Cota, Shelton, Wash.

Summer Falls/Main Canal Interconnection Project

For more information, see the Summer Falls/Main Canal page at www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Jan. 19 – FCRPS Revised Draft Systemwide Programmatic Agreement

Jan. 24 – Olympic Peninsula Reinforcement Project

Feb. 23 – Hanford Reach National Monument CCP/EIS

RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED

Nov. 29 – Windy Point Wind Interconnection

The Journal is a monthly publication of the Bonneville Power Administration. If you have questions or comments, or you want to be added to the mailing list for any project, call toll free (800) 622-4519.

To order copies of documents, call: (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: www.bpa.gov. For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx. Process Abbreviations: EA-Environmental Assessment, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, ESA-Endangered Species Act, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision.

