



Journal

October 2009

New agreement helps estuary habitat

Columbia Basin fish got another boost in September when Gov. Chris Gregoire, representing the state of Washington, signed a memorandum of agreement with federal agencies to help restore habitat in the Columbia River estuary. Agencies signing the agreement included BPA, the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.

The Columbia River estuary is an important nursery for juvenile salmon before they are ready to enter the ocean. It provides forage and shelter from predators, and some young fish linger as much as eight months in the estuary. The agreement commits an additional \$40.5 million for salmon and steelhead habitat restoration, nearly doubling current estuary habitat funds.

Each project will undergo scientific review to confirm its benefits to fish. The new MOA uses BPA funding to leverage additional federal funding through a Corps' cost-sharing program for estuary habitat.

The projects will address factors known to limit fish survival. They may include acquiring, protecting and restoring habitat; restoring tidal wetlands and reopening floodplains by removing dikes or installing tide gates; removing invasive plants and weeds; and restoring native vegetation.



This project adjacent to the Wolf Bay wetlands in Clatsop County, Ore., is typical of Columbia River estuary projects. BPA funded the purchase of 77 acres here to protect fish habitat. Protection of the property ensures low velocity, off-channel habitat for juvenile salmon. Intertidal wetlands offer critical feeding, acclimatization and refuge for salmon.

Obama administration supports BiOp

“Good government depends on good science. We believe this biological opinion exemplifies that ideal.”

Those were the words Dr. Jane Lubchenco used in introducing the Obama administration's review of the May 2008 Biological Opinion (BiOp) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Lubchenco, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also introduced a companion Adaptive Management Implementation Plan prepared by the administration.

The administration reached its conclusions following weeks of review that included listening to the views of the parties to litigation over the BiOp, as well as those of federal agency and independent scientists.

According to the administration, the BiOp, along with contingencies added by the administration's implementation plan, is biologically and legally sound and based on the best available science. The administration's implementation plan – likened to an insurance policy – grew out of concerns over uncertainties about future impacts to fish, such as ocean conditions and climate change.

The BiOp addresses federal hydro system operations for protecting endangered salmon and steelhead.

U.S. District Judge James Redden, who is presiding over BiOp litigation, has set Oct. 2 as the deadline for plaintiffs to file a response to the additions to the BiOp.

Wind integration work moving quickly

This month, BPA dispatchers will be starting to watch the wind in a whole new way – through a real-time wind power operations screen at BPA transmission control centers.

Dispatchers have always had moment-to-moment visual information on how each dam in the hydro system is performing. Now, they'll also have a real-time picture of what each wind project is doing, as well as local wind speeds and forecasts and any unexpected variations in wind power production.



The wind screen is one of several new tools to manage wind power in the transmission grid that BPA has developed through its Wind Integration Team.

Also, in October, new rules to contain costs of generating reserves for wind project operation go into effect. Wind power east of the Columbia River Gorge is proving to move up and down in a single pattern for virtually all the many wind projects in that area. As a result, when a weather front moves through the gorge, all the projects tend to quickly ramp production up or down dramatically.

The new transmission operating protocols will ensure BPA can keep operating the transmission system reliably through these wind ramps while reducing balancing reserve charges to wind project owners.

Complete updates on BPA's wind efforts and the Wind Integration Team projects are posted on BPA's public wind power Web site.

Regional wind forum to reconvene

On Oct. 29, BPA and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council are calling together wind power experts from Northwest utilities, wind power companies and other organizations to report on progress of regional wind power integration efforts and consider what to add to the region's long-term wind integration strategy.

"The Northwest is making great progress in implementing recommendations of the 2007 Northwest Wind Integration Action Plan," said Elliot Mainzer, BPA executive vice president for Corporate Strategy. "This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about the activities under way on the wind integration front. It will foster combined coordination and collaboration to help in identifying issues requiring additional attention."

Conservation to meet most needs

Achieving the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's conservation targets in its draft Sixth Power Plan will meet the lion's share of BPA's anticipated supply needs through 2019. That's according to BPA's draft Resource Program, now out for public comment.

How much more power BPA will need depends in large part on a number of uncertainties – customer choices, climate change policies, timing and strength of economic recovery, fish requirements and other factors.

Given these uncertainties, the draft Resource Program proposes BPA should continue to rely on prudent power

market purchases, increase transmission flexibility for intermittent renewable resources, support development of cost-effective small-scale renewable and cogeneration resources consistent with customers' resource requests, and explore the potential availability of pumped hydropower storage and, possibly, natural-gas-fired resources.

BPA is taking comments on the draft Resource Program through Nov. 30.

Energy efficiency manual available

Expanded utility reimbursements for ductless heat pumps and a new approach to industrial energy efficiency are just some of the changes included in the Oct. 1, 2009, edition of the BPA Implementation Manual. The manual, which provides guidelines and requirements for implementing energy efficiency projects in the region, is now available at www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/implementation.cfm.

BPA is working with utility customers to respond to increased energy efficiency targets in the draft Sixth Power Plan recently released by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

BPA will work with program partners and utilities to deliver a variety of new and traditional industrial services, including project development, marketing services and implementation of industrial energy efficiency acquisition.

Detailed industrial program changes are included in the manual. The changes are an aggressive effort to gain energy efficiency in the industrial sector with specific megawatt targets, higher numbers of custom projects and increased numbers of utility participants.

No decision on DSI service yet

BPA is evaluating the implications of an Aug. 28 decision from the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that limits BPA's flexibility to provide benefits to its direct service industry customers. BPA believes the ruling does not support the agency making the remaining payments to Alcoa, Inc., under the 2006 Block Power Sales Agreement, as amended. Therefore, BPA has not made scheduled payments for August and September.

Although the court ruled that an amended contract under which BPA has provided benefits to Alcoa's Ferndale smelter since January 2009 is invalid, the agency will consider how it can move forward with longer-term options for service to its three DSI customers without significantly impacting the rest of the region's ratepayers.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

NEW PROJECTS

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project – Oregon and Washington

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line from a new substation near Castle Rock, Wash., to a new substation near BPA's

Troutdale Substation, Troutdale, Ore. The proposed facilities are needed to help ease transmission congestion in the northwest Oregon and southwest Washington area. They would allow BPA to fulfill existing and new transmission service requests, improve system reliability and meet continued electric load growth. BPA has identified preliminary transmission line route segments that can be

combined in various ways to form different potential transmission line routes. BPA will use comments received during the scoping period, continuing discussions with interested parties and further transmission line design work to develop route segments into transmission line alternatives. To determine whether to build the line and substations, BPA will prepare an EIS and hold public scoping meeting to receive comments on the scope of the EIS and to help identify other issues and alternatives for consideration in the draft EIS. BPA is accepting comments through Nov. 23, 2009. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

Draft Resource Program – Regionwide

BPA has released a draft Resource Program that examines the agency's projected power supply needs for 2012–2019 under Regional Dialogue contracts. (See story in front news section.) BPA is taking comments on the draft Resource Program through Nov. 30. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/P/ResourceProgram/Index.shtml.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program – Okanogan County, Wash.

This program, sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, would assist in mitigation and recovery of summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. A final EIS and ROD are expected in fall 2009. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency in the EIS. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Klickitat Hatchery Program EIS – Klickitat County, Wash.

BPA will prepare an EIS on proposed changes to the existing salmon and steelhead hatchery program in the Klickitat subbasin in Klickitat and Yakima counties, Wash. The Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will participate. The proposal calls for modifying the hatchery as well as building new facilities at various sites. BPA held agency and public scoping meetings in August and accepted scoping comments through Aug. 31. For more about the project, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Klickitat_Hatchery_Program/.

Yakama Nation – Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project – Chelan and Okanogan counties, Wash.

BPA will prepare an EIS that addresses reintroducing coho salmon into mid-Columbia River basin tributaries. The Yakama Nation has prepared a master plan that would use existing hatchery facilities, construct new permanent and temporary facilities and modify existing ponds or side channels. BPA held public scoping meetings in August and accepted comments through Sept. 15. For information, go to BPA's Web site www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Mid-Columbia_Coho_Restoration_Project/.

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

BPA has conducted value engineering, land acquisition and design according to the initial ROD signed March 11, 2005. A ROD authorizing construction is planned for late winter 2010 to coincide with National Marine Fisheries Service review of the program's Hatchery Genetics Management Plan. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Ronde/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Tier 2 pricing – Regionwide

Preference customers must elect by Nov. 1 whether they intend BPA to supply all or a portion of their above-high water mark power needs for FY 2012, 2013 and 2014, and, if so, how much and through what rate alternative. BPA is working with customers to

bring greater certainty about the types, costs, risks and other characteristics of resources BPA expects to secure. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/meetings/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Grand Coulee Dam Line Replacement – Okanogan, Grant and Douglas counties, Wash.

The Bureau of Reclamation has asked BPA to design and construct six new 500-kV transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam. The proposed overhead lines would replace aging underground lines between Grand Coulee's third powerhouse and the 500-kV spreading yard. The project would help ensure safe and reliable transmission from Grand Coulee. BPA and Reclamation held a public scoping meeting in August prior to preparing an EA. Comments were accepted through Sept. 14. For more information, go to BPA's Web site www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Coulee/.

Transmission Services Facility Project – Vancouver, Wash.

BPA is considering building a new three- to five-story office building on its Ross Complex in Vancouver to meet long-standing work space needs. BPA is inviting customer and public participation in environmental review of the proposed project. For more information, go to BPA's Web site www.efw.bpa.gov/pdf/Transmission_Services_September_2009.pdf.

Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project – Wasco County, Ore., and Klickitat County, Wash.

BPA is proposing a new 500-kV transmission line between BPA's existing Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Ore., and a new substation (Knight) that would be under an existing BPA line about four miles northwest of Goldendale, Wash. The proposed line is needed to respond to requests for transmission service in this area. BPA expects to issue a draft EIS in spring 2010. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy_Knight/.

Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Line Project – Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties, Wash.

BPA is proposing a new 500-kV transmission line between the new BPA Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County and BPA's Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County, Wash. BPA expects to issue a draft EIS in summer 2010. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/centralferry.

Hooper Springs Substation and Hooper Springs-Lower Valley Transmission Line Project

BPA is proposing a new 138/115-kV substation near Soda Springs, Idaho, and partial funding of construction by Lower Valley Energy of a new 22-mile, double-circuit 115-kV transmission line. BPA released a preliminary EA for review in May 2009. This project is currently on hold as BPA and the customer evaluate the scope of the project. For more information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Golden Hills Wind Farm Interconnection – Sherman County, Ore.

BP Alternative Energy has requested interconnection to BPA transmission for a wind project. For more information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Invenergy Winds Project – Gilliam and Morrow Counties, Ore.

Invenergy has requested interconnection to BPA transmission for a wind project. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Horn_Butte_Wind_Project/.

Kittitas Valley Wind Project Interconnection – Kittitas County, Wash.

Sagebrush Power Partners LLC has requested interconnection to BPA transmission for a wind project. For more information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

Whistling Ridge Wind Interconnection Project – Skamania County, Wash.

SDS Lumber Co. has requested interconnection to BPA transmission for a wind project. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Whistling_Ridge/.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project – Klickitat County, Wash.

Construction began in August 2009 and will be completed in 2010. The project will improve fish passage into the upper Klickitat River Basin and will improve facilities for fish monitoring, biological data collection and fish management. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Albany-Burnt Woods/Santiam-Toledo Pole Replacement – Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, Ore.

BPA is replacing wood poles along sections of the Albany-Burnt Woods and Santiam-Toledo lines in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, Ore. Construction began in May and is expected to be completed in December 2009. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Albany/.

Chehalis-Centralia No. 1 Transmission Project – Lewis County, Wash.

BPA is replacing structures and transmission wire along the Chehalis-Centralia No. 1, 69-kV transmission line in Lewis County, Wash. The line is being rebuilt to a standard 115-kV design but will continue to operate at 69-kV until load in the area requires 115-kV operation. For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=CHECEN.

Leaning Juniper II-Jones Canyon Substation Expansion Wind Interconnection Project – Gilliam County, Ore.

Iberdrola Renewables requested interconnection of up to 200 MW generated from the proposed Leaning Juniper II Wind Power Project. BPA will expand its Jones Canyon Substation by about one acre, adding one 230-kV circuit breaker and two disconnect switches. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Leaning_Juniper/.

Libby-to-Troy Line Rebuild – Lincoln County, Mont.

BPA is rebuilding the 17-mile Libby-to-Troy section of the Libby-to-Bonnars Ferry single-circuit 115-kV transmission line to provide stable and reliable transmission service. Construction is expected to be completed in 2010. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Libby/.

McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project – Sherman & Umatilla counties, Ore., Klickitat and Benton counties, Wash.

BPA has broken ground on a 79-mile 500-kV transmission line running between McNary and John Day substations in Oregon but

mostly located in Washington parallel to the Columbia River. For more information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Olympic Peninsula Transmission Line Reinforcement Project – Thurston and Mason counties, Wash.

BPA is moving most of its existing Olympia Shelton No. 1 115-kV transmission line from Olympia Substation to Shelton Substation and replacing 14.5 miles of line into Shelton Substation with a double-circuit 230-kV line. This will improve voltage stability during winter-peak load conditions on the Olympic Peninsula. Completion is expected in fall 2009. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Olympic/.

Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Reconstruction – Bonneville and Bingham Counties, Idaho

BPA is rebuilding the Palisades Goshen line due to its age and deteriorated condition. It is expected to be complete in 2010. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Palisades/.

SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSES

SA-400 Dworshak Power House-Dworshak #1, Clearwater County, Idaho

SA-401 Taft-Bell #1, Mineral County, Montana and Shoshone and Kootenai Counties, Idaho

SA-402 South Tacoma-Cowlitz #1, Pierce County, Wash.

SA-403 Cowlitz Tap to Chehalis-Covington #1, Pierce County, Wash.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view BPA's public involvement calendar, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Calendar/.

Resource Program Workshop – Oct. 14, 1 to 4 p.m., Rates Hearing Room, BPA headquarters

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project:

- Oct. 27, 4 to 7 p.m., Amboy Middle School, 22115 N.E. Chelatchie Road, Amboy, Wash. 98601
- Oct. 28, 4 to 7 p.m., Gaiser Student Hall at Clark College, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, Wash. 98663
- Oct. 29, 4 to 7 p.m., Mark Morris High School, 1602 Mark Morris Court, Longview, Wash. 98632
- Nov. 3, 4 to 7 p.m., Liberty Middle School, 1612 N.E. Garfield Street, Camas, Wash. 98607
- Nov. 5, 4 to 7 p.m., Gresham Holiday Inn, 2752 N.E. Hogan Drive, Gresham, Ore. 97030
- Nov. 7, 1 to 4 p.m., Hazel Dell Grange, 7509 N.E. Hazel Dell Ave., Vancouver, Wash. 98665, No wheelchair access at this meeting

For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, please call toll free (800) 622-4519.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Oct. 29 – Transmission Services Facility Project

Nov. 23 – I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project

Nov. 30 – Draft Resource Program

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.

