



Journal

January 2010

BPA, Alcoa sign power contract

BPA and Alcoa, a direct-service aluminum industry, concluded a power sale contract in December with delivery of power beginning immediately. The contract provides a stable power supply to Alcoa's Intalco smelter near Ferndale, Wash., giving the smelter a reasonable chance to continue operations.

The power sale provides benefits to the region that equal or exceed costs during the first phase of the contract, consistent with a recent U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling.

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, who attended a Dec. 21 signing ceremony, praised the effort both parties put into the contract. In an official statement, she said, "I congratulate the Bonneville Power Administration and Alcoa for reaching this important agreement to keep the Intalco aluminum smelter operating. This agreement supports more than 500 living-wage jobs in the Ferndale area, jobs that are essential to our ability to make it through and recover from this recession.

The first phase of the contract runs 17 months, until May 26, 2011. The amount of power provided will increase from 285 average megawatts to 320 average megawatts in March 2010, enough power for Alcoa to operate two potlines. All power will be priced at BPA's industrial power rate, which is \$34.60 per megawatt hour. A second, five-year phase of the contract is contingent on several factors, including resolution by the court concerning the level of benefits BPA must receive from providing service to Alcoa.

Segments eliminated on I-5 project

After several months of study, BPA has eliminated four of 52 potential transmission route segments for its proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project between the Castle Rock, Wash., area and Troutdale, Ore.

The four segments no longer being considered stretch from northeast of Amboy, Wash., to northwest of Camas, Wash., and are identified as segments 27, 31, 42 and 44 on the project map.

"Though the four segments follow an existing transmission right-of-way, they just were not the right fit for a 500-kilovolt power line," said Mark Korsness, project manager. "Other segments currently under consideration either already have a

BPA line on an existing right-of-way or allow for wider study corridors in less populated areas."

BPA is proposing the new high-voltage power line to ease transmission congestion in and around the Portland/Vancouver area, where energy demand has grown up to 5 percent a year in recent years. BPA expects to decide whether to build the line in 2012. At that time, if the decision is to build, a final route would be identified.

In late January, the agency will conclude its scoping efforts by issuing a "scoping summary." In spring 2010, the agency intends to release a more detailed description of potential routing alternatives to be considered in its draft environmental impact statement.

These alternatives will then be further evaluated and refined, and the draft EIS will include a thorough analysis of potentially viable alternatives. The draft EIS is slated for completion in early 2011. BPA will publicly circulate the draft EIS and take additional comments prior to a final EIS.

New report charts salmon progress

Dam improvements, habitat restoration and other work on behalf of threatened and endangered salmon are on track to deliver the benefits mandated by the 2008 Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System, according to a progress report released in December.

The report issued by BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation cites progress including improved passage through dams, lower predation, more than 260 miles of reopened stream habitat and other measures. It documents work by the agencies during the first year of the 2008 Biological Opinion, which specifies how they will protect fish from the impacts of hydroelectric dams.

The biological opinion requires the three agencies to regularly assess their progress on salmon protection and address any shortcomings in annual reports. The first-year report concludes the agencies are on track to meet science-driven targets for boosting fish survival through dams to 96 percent or 93 percent, depending on the species.

"We're not only seeing that more fish make it past the dams safely, but we're also looking beyond the dams to make sure they have what they need elsewhere in the system, too," said Bill McDonald, Pacific Northwest regional director for the



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. "While this reflects only the first year of the BiOp, it's setting the direction for the years to come."

For the full report, go to www.salmonrecovery.gov/BiologicalOpinions/FCRPS/BiopImplementation/BiopImplementation2008.aspx.

2009 White Book available

The "2009 Pacific Northwest Loads and Resources Study," known as the White Book, is now available. The White Book provides a snapshot of Pacific Northwest federal and regional load and resource conditions and forecasts for the next 10 years.

Whether the federal system is surplus or deficit depends on assumptions about the water supply. Under critical water, the federal system is deficit eight out of 10 years through 2019. However, under the middle 80 percent of water, the federal system is surplus each year.

The nonfederal regional load/resource balance also depends on the outcome of assumptions. If all 3,005 average megawatts of uncommitted output from independent power producers stays in the region, the region is surplus eight out of 10 years. If, however, only 25 percent of that output stays in the region, the region is deficit eight of 10 years.

The 2009 White Book summary document can be obtained from BPA's Public Information Center, 800-622-4520. A technical appendix (available electronically only) presents regional loads grouped by major Northwest utility categories and detailed contract and resource information.

Both are available at www.bpa.gov/power/pgp/whitebook/2009/.

Green energy awards

BPA received two awards recently – the Champions of Environmental Leadership and Green Government awards – from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 10. The Champion award is given to federal agencies that go "above and beyond the call of duty in working to improve the environment, protect our natural resources and reduce their carbon footprint."

The Green Government award recognizes BPA for its "overall environmental leadership" for its groundbreaking Climate Change Roadmap, Green Team and work to increase the number of fuel-efficient vehicles in its transportation fleet and to reduce water use.

The Champions of Environmental Leadership award celebrates BPA's strategies to reduce greenhouse gases as shown in its December 2008 Climate Change Roadmap. In less than one year, implementation of this roadmap has helped the agency develop sustainable practices internally and with its stakeholders.

BPA was cited for installing new lighting in its 28 buildings in Vancouver, Wash. The replacements and retrofits reduced electricity use about 57 percent, from more than 836,000 kilowatt-hours to about 364,000 kWh.

BPA also purchased more efficient and alternative fuel vehicles for its motor pool, replacing 12 of 18 vehicles with new hybrids. These cars are scheduled for delivery in spring of 2010.

Finally, BPA evaluated water use at the agency's 10 largest metered facilities and reduced consumption by about 6 percent through improved irrigation.

BPA funds Willamette Valley habitat

Rare and endangered Willamette Valley wildlife gained nearly 500 acres of newly protected habitat, including some of the best remaining slices of native wetlands, prairies and oak woodlands, through four recent purchases of land and conservation easements funded by BPA.

Sensitive species from the endangered Fender's blue butterfly to the Western meadowlark, Oregon's state bird, depend on the habitat, which is some of the most imperiled in the Pacific Northwest. Less than 2 percent of Oregon's Willamette Valley native upland prairie remains. Only 5 percent of original prairie and oak woodlands remains.

"The protection of these lands is of great value to fish and wildlife because the habitat is so rich and diverse and represents some of the last remaining native habitats in the Willamette," said Bill Maslen, BPA's Fish and Wildlife director.

All the parcels fall within high priority conservation opportunity areas outlined by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Oregon Conservation Strategy.

BPA is funding the protection efforts in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, Greenbelt Land Trust and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to help mitigate impacts of the construction and operation of federal dams in the Willamette River system. The nearly 500 acres – roughly 400 football fields worth of habitat – bring the total Willamette Valley lands protected by BPA funding to about 6,200 acres.

Rescue team gets BPA snowcat

Emergency responders from Washington's Volcano Rescue Team got a boost in late December, when BPA donated an all-terrain vehicle to the team, based in Yacolt. The four-person snowcat will help volunteers handle increasing search and rescue calls in rugged, remote terrain.

The Volcano Rescue Team is part of North Country Emergency Medical Service, which serves more than 1,000 square miles, including backcountry areas around Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Increasing winter recreation has led to a rising number of search and rescue calls, including many where a snowcat would have provided faster and safer transportation and evacuation.

BPA used the snowcat to access power lines in remote areas in winter but is now donating the vehicle because the agency is standardizing its fleet. BPA typically sells or transfers such property to other federal agencies but, in this case, is donating the snowcat, valued at \$15,000, because of its value to rescue operations in BPA's service area.



The BPA snocat rolls off the flatbed ready for its new mission—search and rescue.

“For a search and rescue agency that’s covering the area around Mount St. Helens, it’s a huge piece of equipment they could never afford on their own,” said Ulrik Larsen, BPA’s

property disposal officer. “Our responsibility is to get the best value for ratepayers. In this instance, if even one life is saved, that’s a very large payoff.”

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

NEW PROJECTS

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project – Oregon and Washington

In October, BPA proposed 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. BPA sought comments on the proposal and hosted six public meetings to help identify issues to be studied in the EIS. BPA also attended several locally organized neighborhood meetings and gave numerous briefings. The formal scoping comment period closed Dec. 14. On Dec. 21, BPA announced it would eliminate four segments from the project (see story in news section). BPA will accept comments throughout the life of the project. A scoping summary report will be released in January summarizing what BPA heard from the public. A draft EIS is scheduled for spring 2011 after which another formal comment period will held. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

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 mitigation and recovery of summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. A final EIS was released in November, and a ROD is expected in early 2010. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency in the EIS. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Klickitat Hatchery Program EIS – Klickitat County, Wash.

For information, 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.

For information, go to 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.

A ROD authorizing construction is planned for December 2010 or January 2011 to coincide with NOAA Fisheries Service review of the program’s Hatchery Genetics Management Plan. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grande_Ronde/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Service to Alcoa – Regionwide

BPA signed a power sale contract with Alcoa on Dec. 21 (see story in news section). The power sale agreement and record of decision are posted on BPA’s external Web at www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/documents/#SDSI.

Draft Resource Program – Regionwide

BPA took comments on a draft Resource Program through Nov. 30. The draft examines the agency’s projected power supply needs for

2012–2019 under Regional Dialogue contracts. BPA will revise the draft Resource Program, in part based on the comment, and expects to release a final Resource Program in summer 2010. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/P/ResourceProgram/Index.shtml.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

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

In June 2009, BPA announced a proposal to build a new 500-kilovolt 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. BPA sought comment on the project and hosted two public meetings to help determine issues it should study in the EIS. BPA is now inviting comments on refinements made to the project proposal. Comments are due on Jan. 19, 2010. BPA expects to issue a draft EIS in spring 2010. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy_Knight/.

Central Ferry Substation – Garfield County, Wash.

BPA accepted comments through Nov. 13 on a proposed 500/230-kilovolt substation to interconnect Puget Sound Energy's Lower Snake River Wind Energy Project in Garfield and Columbia counties, Wash. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Central_Ferry_Substation_Project/.

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

The Bureau of Reclamation asked BPA to construct six new 500-kV overhead transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam to replace aging underground lines between the dam's third powerhouse and the 500-kV spreading yard. BPA is currently working on the EA for this project, with a projected schedule of March 2010. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Coulee/.

Whistling Ridge Wind Interconnection Project – Skamania County, Wash.

BPA is currently preparing a joint EIS with the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. A draft EIS should be available in spring 2010. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Whistling_Ridge/.

Transmission Services Facility Project – Vancouver, Wash.

BPA is considering building a new office building on its Ross Complex in Vancouver to meet long-standing work space needs. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/pdf/Transmission_Services_September_2009.pdf.

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 spring 2010. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/centralferry.

Hooper Springs Substation and Hooper Springs-Lower Valley Transmission Line Project – Caribou County, Idaho

This project is on hold as BPA and the customer evaluate the scope of the project. For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Invenergy Winds Project – Gilliam and Morrow counties, Ore.

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Horn_Butte_Wind_Project/.

Kittitas Valley Wind Project Interconnection – Kittitas County, Wash.

For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project – Klickitat County, Wash.

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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

For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

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

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Leaning_Juniper/.

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

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Palisades/.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

- **SA-409** Chehalis-Covington #1 – King and Pierce counties, Wash., 11/23/09
- **SA-410** Shelton-Fairmount No. 4, – Mason and Jefferson counties, Wash., 12/08/09
- **SA-411** Raver-Echo Lake – King County, Wash., 12/04/09

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view BPA's public involvement calendar, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Calendar/. For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, please call toll free 800-622-4519.

Feb. 2, 2010 – Quarterly Business Review meeting, Rates hearing Room, 1 to 4 p.m.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Jan. 19, 2010 – Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project

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.

