



Journal

April 2010

Fish survival is top priority

With this year's low water, river operations to maximize fish survival are demanding a careful choreography.

For example, over the winter, federal fish operations had been concerned primarily with maintaining tailwater elevations below Bonneville Dam to keep chum salmon eggs watered. Chum salmon are listed under the Endangered Species Act. By late March, chum fry had nearly all emerged and were moving to deeper water. Therefore, operations shifted to storing water for spring and summer flows.

One factor limiting storage is the chinook redds at Vernita Bar in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River. The largest population of wild Columbia River chinook lives in this 60-mile section of the Columbia River.

Starting at Thanksgiving, in cooperation with Grant County PUD, the flow over Vernita Bar has been held at or above 60,000 cubic feet per second to assure that the chinook eggs remain under water. Grant County PUD owns and operates Priest Rapids Dam, the dam immediately upstream of the Hanford Reach.

As the chinook fry emerge from the gravel from now until late May, dam operators will continue to keep water flowing over the redds. Once additional flows are released from upwater storage to move juvenile steelhead through the Hanford Reach, dam operators will be allowed to vary flows within a limited band. If the level fluctuates too much, young fish can be stranded in side channels or depressions in the river bottom when the level drops. Maintaining adequate water levels requires extraordinary coordination among Grand Coulee, Chief Joseph and the mid-Columbia dam operators.

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With the river volume expected to be far below normal this year, hydro system operators are struggling to fully meet the requirement to refill Roosevelt Lake behind Grand Coulee Dam. That water is used to meet spring and summer fish operation requirements for migrating juvenile salmon.

While fish survival takes precedence over power production, there is not enough storage capability in the system to turn a natural dry water year into an average water year. Mother Nature, not the hydro operators, will control most of the flows for fish passage.

BPA to seek input on EE plan

BPA has been conducting a public process to engage customers and other stakeholders in the role BPA should play to facilitate the continued successful development of energy efficiency at the lowest cost to the region. Using information gathered in this process, BPA drafted a proposed framework to define the agency's future role. BPA plans to open a public comment period on the proposed framework and hold several regional meetings during April.

The Pacific Northwest has led the nation in energy efficiency for more than 30 years – a result of proactive and aggressive efforts taken by BPA, consumer- and investor-owned utilities and a variety of other stakeholders. But energy efficiency is especially relevant now as the region's demand for electricity continues to grow and the nation focuses on the benefits of clean power.

For updated information, go to www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.

New technologies wanted

BPA is seeking research and development proposals for a new round of agency investment into the study of new technologies to upgrade and modernize the Northwest power system.

A solicitation for proposals issued last month seeks research projects to expand the agency's technology development portfolio in the areas of renewable energy, energy



efficiency, hydroelectric power operations, power grid security and power transmission. BPA is especially interested in developing technologies to advance grid operations and smoothly incorporate rising amounts of renewable energy such as wind power.

The solicitation includes about \$3 million worth of funding and asks prospective researchers to submit Statements of Qualification by April 5. BPA will then invite qualified researchers with projects that support the Technology Roadmaps to submit a more detailed proposal.

For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/innovation/.

BPA seeks demand response projects

BPA issued a funding opportunity announcement last month for the agency's utility customers interested in piloting demand response projects. The agency expects to grant multiple awards totaling about \$1.5 million over multiple years. Applications are due to BPA by April 19, and the agency expects to begin making awards by May.

Demand response is a way for the region to help level out the spikes of energy consumption that occur during times of peak use, such as in the morning when people are typically waking up and turning on lights and appliances.

This approach to managing energy consumption allows electricity consumers to control how and when they use electricity, and in some cases, at what price. For example, customers can volunteer for programs where the utility is allowed to reduce the energy consumption of certain appliances during times of the day when the demand for electricity is high.

For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/demand_ann.cfm.

Wright testifies before Congress

Despite challenging economic conditions and low water, BPA Administrator Steve Wright told the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water and Power last month that BPA will make its annual Treasury payment and is continuing its support for renewable energy development, fish and wildlife restoration and energy efficiency. Wright was before the subcommittee to review BPA's proposed budget for fiscal year 2011.

Wright detailed BPA's accomplishments of the past year in supporting new renewable wind generation. BPA now has approximately 2,800 megawatts of wind generation capacity connected to its transmission system. Wright described BPA's transmission construction program that is underway, explaining it will support more wind energy in the Northwest and maintain system reliability.

The Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council's Sixth Northwest Power Plan calls for the region

to meet 85 percent of its electricity load growth through energy efficiency over the next 20 years. Wright told the committee that BPA is committed to work in partnership with its public utility customers to achieve public power's share of that goal.

Wright also reported that BPA is well underway in implementing the restoration measures called for by the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords.

Nuclear ruling may benefit ratepayers

Northwest electric ratepayers may benefit from a recent federal court decision involving the storage of spent nuclear fuel from Columbia Generating Station, the Northwest's only nuclear plant, near Richland, Wash.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims in 2006 found that the federal government had partially breached its contract with Energy Northwest, which operates the nuclear plant, because the government did not begin accepting spent fuel for deposit at the federal Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada as scheduled in 1998. Northwest ratepayers have paid a surcharge on nuclear power since 1983 to help fund Yucca Mountain, but the repository never opened.

When it became clear that the government would not accept waste at Yucca Mountain as scheduled, Energy Northwest built a storage facility at the nuclear plant site near Richland to continue plant operation and sought damages from the government to cover the costs. The U.S. Court of Federal Claims last week awarded Energy Northwest \$56.9 million. The government may appeal the award, so it is not clear when payment might actually be received.

BPA purchases all CGS power and pays for the plant's operation with ratepayer funds, so BPA ratepayers have paid the costs of building the fuel storage facility at the CGS site near Richland. If the award to Energy Northwest withstands appeal, the payment will temporarily offset BPA's funding of the plant in the year the payment is received and reduce the CGS costs built into BPA's rates.

Business Journal honors BPA's COO

BPA's Chief Operating Officer Anita Decker is a recipient of the Portland Business Journal's Orchid Award for 2010. The award honors outstanding women in business and nonprofit organizations for demonstrating exceptional leadership, professional accomplishment and community involvement.

Decker, who came to BPA in 2007, has a lengthy career in the electric utility business. She joined PacifiCorp in 1980 as a weatherization inspector in Klamath Falls. "I was the poster child for starting from the ground up," she said. "I spent a great deal of time crawling under houses and into attics checking insulation."

Over nearly three decades, she held successive levels of responsibility for the Portland-based investor-owned utility, eventually rising to vice president. She retired from PacifiCorp in 2007 and came to BPA later that same year to serve as chief operating officer.

Decker is active in the community, especially in education targeted at young people. She is on the board and

executive committee for Junior Achievement, a member of the Leader's Roundtable, on the program committee for Friends of Children, and has previously served on the Oregon State Board of Education and the Oregon State Commission for Children and Families.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

2012 BPA Rate Proceeding – Regionwide

BPA will conduct a combined power and transmission rate proceeding, the 2012 BPA Rate Case (BPA-12), to set rates for the FY 2012–2013 period. This rate case is expected to begin in late 2010. Pre-rate case workshops are scheduled for April to help customer utilities and others become familiar with and work through cost allocation issues informally before the formal proceedings. Agendas and handouts will be posted at www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/ in advance of each workshop. SEE CALENDAR.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Rainwater Wildlife Area Acquisition [Columbia County, Wash.]

BPA and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are holding an open house on the Rainwater Wildlife Area. BPA is proposing to fund expansion of the existing Rainwater Wildlife Area to preserve habitat for fish and wildlife. The current Rainwater Management Plan and a factsheet are posted at www.efw.bpa.gov. SEE CALENDAR.

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program [Okanogan County, Wash.]

This program, sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, would benefit chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. A final EIS was released in November 2009, and BPA's ROD was issued in March 2010. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency in the EIS and expects to issue a ROD in late 2010. 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, operations and maintenance is planned for spring 2011, after NOAA Fisheries Service's review of the program's Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grande_Ronde/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Draft Resource Program [Regionwide]

The draft Resource Program examines the agency's projected power supply needs for 2012–2019 under Regional Dialogue contracts. BPA expects to release a final Resource Program this summer. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/P/ResourceProgram/Index.shtml.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

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. A scoping summary report was released in February summarizing public comment. A draft EIS is scheduled for spring 2011 followed by another comment period. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

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

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line between BPA's existing Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Ore., and a new substation (Knight) under an existing BPA line near Goldendale, Wash. BPA expects to issue a draft EIS this spring. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy_Knight/.

Walla Walla-Tucannon River Transmission Line Rebuild [Walla Walla and Columbia counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 47-mile Walla Walla-Tucannon River 115-kilovolt transmission line. The project calls for replacing wood poles and conductor, road improvements and vegetation removal. The line would continue to operate at 115-kV. BPA will accept comments through April 18. Public meetings were held in March. BPA will produce a preliminary EA this fall or winter and hold another comment period. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/.

Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild [Lane and Linn counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild approximately 32 miles of a 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. BPA accepted comments on the proposed project through March 27 and hosted an open-house meeting on March 11. BPA will produce a Preliminary EA this fall or winter and hold another comment period. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/albany-eugene.

Bandon-Rogue No.1 Transmission Line Rebuild [Coos and Curry counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 115-kilovolt wood-pole Bandon-Rogue line. The 46-mile line extends from the Bandon Substation to the Rogue Substation near Nesika Beach. Public meetings were held in February, and BPA accepted comments through March 19. A preliminary EA is due this fall or winter, followed by another comment period. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/.

Juniper Canyon I Wind Interconnection Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., has asked BPA to interconnect up to 150 megawatts from the proposed Juniper Canyon I Wind Project. This would require BPA to expand its existing Rock Creek substation to construct an additional 230-kV terminal and install communication and metering equipment. BPA accepted comments on the project through January 30, 2010. For more information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Juniper_Canyon_Wind/.

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

The Bureau of Reclamation asked BPA to design and possibly construct six new 500-kilovolt overhead transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam to replace aging underground lines between the dam's third powerhouse and the 500-kV spreading yard. A Draft EA is due in June 2010. BPA will hold a public meeting in Grand Coulee to seek comment on the draft. The final EA is scheduled for August 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 preparing a joint draft EIS with the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to be available this spring. 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 workspace needs. BPA will produce a preliminary EA in fall or winter 2010. 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-kilovolt 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 information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/centralferry.

Horn Butte Wind Project [Gilliam and Morrow counties, Ore.]

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

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

Albeni Falls-Sand Creek Transmission Line Project [Bonner County, Idaho]

Construction is scheduled to begin in May and be completed by late 2010. BPA will rebuild a 25-mile section of the existing transmission line on an existing right-of-way from the Albeni Falls Dam to one mile north of BPA's Sandpoint Substation. About 340 wood poles will be replaced and 17 miles of the line will be reconducted to a larger conductor. BPA will hold an open house meeting April 13. For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=albe. SEE CALENDAR.

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-423 McNary-John Day — Umatilla and Sherman counties, Ore., Benton and Klickitat counties, Wash., 3/9/10

SA-424 Dworshak-Taft — Clearwater, Latah and Shoshone counties, Idaho, and Mineral County, Mont., 3/12/10

SA-425 Four Lakes Tap — Spokane County, Wash., 3/12/10

SA-426 Ostrander-Pearl — Clackamas County, Ore., 3/12/10

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.

2012 BPA Rate proceeding pre-rate case workshops,
Rates Hearing Room, 905 NE 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.:

- **April 12,** 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Power
- **April 13,** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Power
- **April 14,** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Transmission, Wind/Generation inputs

Rainwater Wildlife Area open house: April 12, 5 to 8 p.m.,
Seneca Activity Center, Seneca Way, Dayton, Wash.

Albeni Falls Transmission Line open house meeting: April 13,
3 to 7 p.m., Priest River City Hall, 209 High St., Priest River, Idaho

CLOSE OF COMMENT

April 18 — Walla Walla-Tucannon River Transmission Line Rebuild

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.