

Journal

August 2010

BPA meets new contract milestones

When the long-term Regional Dialogue power sales contracts were signed in December 2008, it seemed like the culmination of years of effort. But, in reality, it was just the beginning of a huge effort inside BPA to implement the contracts. They go into effect Oct. 1, 2011.

Thanks to that effort, Power Services staff has made real progress. The Residential Purchase and Sales Agreements website project went live just weeks ago.

As part of Regional Dialogue implementation, a new Web-based system was developed to review, evaluate and process the average system costs and corresponding benefits for utilities participating in the Residential Exchange Program. The new website allows REP customers to upload specific data and documentation directly to BPA.

The website is an efficient way for BPA and its participating customers and other interveners to comment on the data in a secure forum. The Secure REP also allows for tracing and monitoring REP benefit payments.

Earlier, the Agency Load Forecasting project also went live. ALF is an upgrade to the current load forecasting application that will provide a link between the short-term (hourly forecasting methods) and the long-term customer load forecasts (monthly), as well as forecast the tiered rate structure of loads.

These are just the first of many agency initiatives that will come into fruition over the next several months that prepare BPA to deliver power under the new Regional Dialogue contracts.

Purchase boosts sockeye recovery

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game purchased a former southeast Idaho fish hatchery site with the goal of constructing a new hatchery to further boost rebounding numbers of endangered Snake River sockeye salmon.

BPA funded the \$4.75-million purchase, which comes just as the most adult Snake River sockeye in at least 40 years appear headed back to the mountain streams of Central Idaho. That's a promising sign for a species that some had

considered all but extinct. While sockeye still have a long way to go toward recovery, the proposed new hatchery should help get them there.

The purchase of the 73-acre parcel formerly known as the Crystal Springs Trout Farm near Springfield, Idaho, closed in July. Idaho Fish and Game will next develop a proposal to convert the now-shuttered existing facility into a state-of-the-art sockeye hatchery that can support production of up to 1 million young fish for release into the Snake River.

Salmon returns to Columbia look good

This year's run of chinook returning to the Columbia River — 339,442 adults counted passing Bonneville Dam near the end of July — is comfortably above the 10-year average of 204,000. By contrast, the annual average in the decade of the 1990s, when 12 populations of steelhead and salmon in the Columbia Basin were listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act, was only 60,500 fish.

Thus, the closing decade is shaping up to be one of the best since Bonneville Dam was completed in 1938, with three remarkable years: 2001, 2002 and now 2010.

Watch us work

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN FLYING CRANES? You can watch them in action on **BPA's news site** (www.bpa.gov/go/news), **Facebook** page and **YouTube** channel. Last month, these helicopters carried large steel-lattice towers through the air and dropped them into place along BPA's 500-kilovolt McNary-John Day transmission line near Roosevelt, Wash.

ALSO ON VIDEO: See how a tribal-state partnership is working to save endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon, a fish that dates to the time of the dinosaurs; learn how a collaborative partnership between BPA and the Skagit Indian Tribe is helping to keep people and elk safer; and more.



NOAA Fisheries biologists say there are a number of reasons for these recent increases: juvenile salmon encountered highly productive ocean conditions in 2007 and 2008, and the region has made marked improvements to freshwater rearing habitat and hatchery practices in the Columbia Basin. The scientists also point to fish-friendly improvements to the basin's hydroelectric dams, and thus better conditions for migrating fish, and better management of salmon harvests.

Sockeye salmon returns are much higher than anticipated. So far this year, 386,072 adult sockeye salmon have passed Bonneville Dam. That is by far the most sockeye to pass Bonneville than any year since 1955.

Celebrating a better Bonneville Dam

A 17-year, \$140 million investment in retrofitting Bonneville Dam's original powerhouse is paying off for fish, wind power and more efficient hydropower generation. And it sets the powerhouse up to supply reliable, clean, low-cost electricity to the Northwest for another 70 years. That's the message the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers emphasized at a ceremony rededicating the powerhouse July 20. BPA funded the improvements.

"The federal partners have been retrofitting the hydro system in ways that its designers and builders could not have contemplated," said Administrator Steve Wright, speaking at the event. "We believe these efforts make it

possible to have clean, renewable energy, as well as healthy species of salmon."

The Corps replaced 21 transformers, rewound or repaired all 10 generators, replaced all 10 turbine runners with fish-friendly models, rebuilt the electrical switchyard, repaired bridge cranes and rails, replaced all 10 electrical governors and repaired wicket gates.

These improvements allow the Corps to adjust operations on short notice to cover gaps created by fluctuating solar and wind power; deliver up to 5 percent more power from the same amount of water at peak load; and reduce injury to fish passing through the turbines.

BPA signs ColumbiaGrid agreement

BPA has signed a six-year general funding agreement for \$800,000 annually to continue its membership and participation in ColumbiaGrid through calendar year 2016. ColumbiaGrid is a Northwest regional transmission planning and services organization that focuses on ways its members can work together to provide transmission services more efficiently.

Established in 2006, ColumbiaGrid now serves as the regional transmission organization for BPA; Avista Corporation; Chelan County PUD; Grant County PUD; Puget Sound Energy, Inc.; Seattle City Light; Snohomish County PUD; and Tacoma Power.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Quarterly Business Review [Regionwide]

BPA will hold its Quarterly Business Review Aug. 3 (**SEE CALENDAR**). The QBR is an ongoing forum that focuses on BPA's finances with a review of current fiscal year actual financial results compared to financial forecasts. It is part of the Integrated Business Review. A final agenda and presentation materials will be posted a day or two before the meeting at www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/IBR/QBR/.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation [Regionwide]

BPA accepted comments in July on a proposed new contract between BPA and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to continue BPA funding for BEF at roughly current levels over the term of BPA Regional Dialogue contracts. BPA will now analyze comments on the proposed contract and decide how to proceed. To review the proposed contract, go to www.bpa.gov/applications/publiccomments/OpenCommentListing.aspx.

Columbia River Treaty 2014–2024 Review

The U.S. Entity to the Columbia River that has released its Phase 1 Technical Study Report, a document that examines how power and flood control could be affected post-2024 under various scenarios, primarily termination or continuation of the treaty. The Phase 1 Report was a joint effort between BC Hydro (the Canadian Entity) and BPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which make up the U.S.

Entity. The 1964 Treaty is an international agreement between Canada and the United States for the cooperative development and operation of water resources in the Columbia River basin. U.S. Entity staff will be available by phone Aug. 16, 17 and 18 to answer questions about the report. For more, go to www.crt2014-2024review.gov/. see calendar.

Jefferson County PUD [Regionwide]

BPA is accepting public comment through Aug. 2 on the draft wholesale power contract presented to Jefferson County Public Utility District, which is expanding its utility operations to provide retail electric service. For more information or to comment, go to www.bpa.gov/comment.

Integrated Program Review [Regionwide]

BPA recently posted the draft closeout report documenting the expected costs going into the next rate case. Participation by regional parties and their feedback will guide the agency in identifying potential changes to the preliminary IPR spending levels and the direction proposed spending levels may take in the IPR Final Close-Out Report, which is expected in late summer. A copy of the draft close-out report can be found at www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/IBR/IPR/Draft%20IPR%20Report.pdf. For more, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/IBR/IPR/.

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 will be held through the summer to help customer utilities and others become familiar with and work through cost allocation issues informally before the formal proceedings. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/. SEE CALENDAR.

Energy Efficiency post-2011 proposal [Regionwide]

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. Phase two of the public process began in July. The kick-off meeting, in which more than 70 regional stakeholders participated, included an overview closing out Phase 1 of the process and a discussion about what should be collectively accomplished in Phase 2. Five workgroups have been formed to provide recommendations to BPA on the implementation of energy efficiency programs for the post-2011 time period. BPA will take these recommendations into consideration and then make a proposal available for public comment. The recommendations and public comments will provide guidance to BPA on program implementation for the post-2011 time period. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

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.]

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

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Direct Service Industry lookback issues [Regionwide]

The first phase of public comment on the draft ROD addressing several legal issues relating to the potential for “lookback” payments to or from its direct-service industry customers ended July 23. BPA will now receive cross comments until Aug. 9 from parties who may wish to respond to specific issues raised in the first phase of comment. At the close of the second phase, BPA anticipates evaluating the record for four to six weeks at which time it will issue a final ROD. For more, go to www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/documents.

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. BPA announced project updates this month to the media and through its mailing list. A draft EIS is scheduled for spring 2011 followed by another formal 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-kV 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 in early fall. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy-Knight/.

Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission 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 released a draft EIS and held a public meeting in July. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/centralferrylomo.

Hooper Springs Transmission Project [Caribou County, Idaho]

BPA is proposing a new 115-kilovolt transmission line and a new 138/115-kV substation, called Hooper Springs Substation, in Caribou County, Idaho. The project is needed to improve voltage stability and reliability on the transmission grid and to meet future load growth in southeast Idaho and the Jackson Hole area. BPA is accepting scoping comments on the proposal through Aug. 9. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/hoopersprings.

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-kV transmission line. The agency will produce a preliminary EA this fall or winter. 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-kV wood pole transmission line. Resource studies were completed this summer. The agency will produce a preliminary EA this fall or winter. 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-kV wood-pole Bandon-Rogue line. The agency will produce a preliminary EA this fall or winter. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/.

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. The schedule to release the draft EA has been delayed. Look for updates in the Journal about the release of the draft EA and public meetings. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Coulee/.

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

Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., asked BPA to interconnect up to 101 MW from the proposed Juniper Canyon II Wind Project. To interconnect the project, BPA would build a new Wood Creek Substation, along an existing BPA transmission line near Roosevelt, Wash. BPA is beginning environmental review of the proposal and will prepare a Tiered ROD to the BPA Business Plan EIS, expected to be completed this fall or winter. BPA will accept comments on the proposal through Aug. 20 and hold

a public meeting Aug. 5. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/junipercanyonII. SEE CALENDAR.

Radar Ridge Wind Project Interconnection [Pacific County, Wash.]

Energy Northwest asked BPA to interconnect up to 82 megawatts of power from the proposed Radar Ridge Wind Project in Pacific County, Wash. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will complete an EIS, and BPA will serve as a cooperating agency under NEPA. USFWS held public scoping meetings in June and accepted comments through June 28. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Radar_Ridge_Wind_Project/.

Whistling Ridge Energy Project [Skamania County, Wash.]

In May, BPA released a joint draft EIS with the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. BPA and EFSEC will accept comments through Aug. 27. Comments received by both agencies will be addressed in the final EIS, expected to be released in spring 2011. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/whistling.

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/.

Antelope Mountain Communication Project [Deschutes County, Ore.]

BPA proposes to construct a new 616 square-foot communications building and 80-foot microwave tower at the Antelope Communications Site on Pine Mountain near Bend, Ore., to help BPA maintain and operate the transmission system safely and reliably. BPA accepted comments through June 14. BPA is waiting for approval from the U.S. Forest Service to begin construction. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/docs/2010/.

Transmission Services Facility Project [Vancouver, Wash.]

BPA is conducting a feasibility study on building a new office building on its Ross Complex in Vancouver to meet workspace needs. BPA will produce a preliminary EA this fall or winter. The feasibility study is expected to be complete by early 2011. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/pdf/Transmission_Services_September_2009.pdf.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program [Okanogan County, Wash.]

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

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

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

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

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

For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=albe.

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/.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Quarterly Business Review: Aug. 3, 1 to 4 p.m., Rates Hearing Room, 905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

Juniper Canyon II Wind Interconnection Project public meeting: Aug 5, 4 to 7 p.m., Roosevelt Elementary School, Roosevelt, Wash.

Columbia River Treaty Review teleconference: Dial 503-230-5566, then enter 2787#.

- **Aug. 16**, 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Aug. 17 and 18**, 10 to 11 a.m.

2012 BPA Rate Proceeding workshops: Rates Hearing Room, 905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

- **Aug. 17**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Aug. 18**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Aug. 19**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project public meetings

- **Aug. 30**, 4 to 7 p.m. — Castle Rock Elementary School, 700 Huntington Ave. S, Castle Rock, Wash.
- **Aug. 31**, 4 to 7 p.m. — Skyview High School, 1300 N.W. 139th St., Vancouver, Wash.
- **Sept. 8**, 4 to 7 p.m. — Mountain Valley Grange, 40107 N.E. 221st Ave., Amboy, Wash.
- **Sept. 12**, noon to 6 p.m. — Union High School, 6201 N.W. Friberg Strunk St., Camas, Wash.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Aug. 2 — Jefferson County PUD draft wholesale power contract

Aug. 9 — Direct Service Industry Lookback Issues cross comment

Aug. 9 — Hooper Springs Transmission Project

Aug. 19 — Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line 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.

