

Journal

November 2011

Forbes spotlights NW hydro system

The latest issue of Forbes magazine features a comprehensive article about the Columbia River hydro system and the important role hydropower plays in the region.

For anyone who wants a better understanding of how BPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manage the Columbia River system, this piece, titled "The high-stakes math behind the West's greatest river," is recommended reading.

The story covers BPA's core responsibilities, reflects the complexity of the system, and gives a behind-the-scenes look at the intricate work of BPA and the Corps to balance river and power operations, including fish protection and wind energy integration.

Here's how the article begins:

"In a darkened, ultra-secure room on the fifth floor of an unassuming office tower in Portland, Ore., Bob Neal sits before a panel of ten computer screens and plays Moses. Neal points to a dense blue-and-white display whose flickering numbers show power output at each of 31 dams in the Columbia basin. With a few keystrokes he orders the Grand Coulee Dam, the continent's largest power plant, to ramp up its output by 870 megawatts in the next hour."

To read the full story, go to www.Forbes.com, and search for "The high-stakes math behind the West's greatest river."

Conservation project saves four million kilowatt-hours

WaferTech, one of the greenest semiconductor manufacturers in the world, has a new energy efficient cooling system at its facility in Camas, Wash.

The new system uses cool, Pacific Northwest weather to reduce the temperature of the post-manufacturing water. Using this natural cooling rather than traditional chillers, WaferTech expects to reduce its energy consumption by four million kilowatt-hours and save some \$200,000 a year.

Installation of the \$1.6 million system was funded through grants, including \$1,031,500 from Clark Public Utilities with resources from BPA, \$120,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding through the State Energy Program Grant, and \$100,000 from Washington State University.

Visit BPA's website at www.bpa.gov in early November to see a video about the project.

Columbia River coho numbers on the rise

Coho salmon returns to the upper Columbia River are booming. This fall's large coho run highlights the success of tribal programs that have helped restore the species once considered nearly extinct. So far this year, more than 124,000 coho have migrated past Bonneville Dam. That's well above 2010 numbers and the 10 year average.

BPA is working with the Yakama Nation to restore coho to the mid and upper Columbia River. Historically, coho were found in Columbia tributaries, but by 1980 the fish had nearly disappeared above Bonneville Dam. Overfishing, dams, diversions, development and other factors led to this decline.

Beginning in the 1990s, tribal coho reintroduction programs helped ignite a coho rebound. Scientists used hatchery coho brood stock from lower Columbia hatcheries to populate river tributaries (Umatilla, Yakima, Wenatchee, Methow, and Clearwater) in the upper and mid Columbia basins. As a result, the offspring of that brood stock are now spawning naturally in some tributaries of these basins.

Watch us work

FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE UP TO. This month, we show you how:

- **Big Bertha pumps up energy and water savings.** BPA and Northwest public utilities work together to increase energy savings in the agricultural industry. Farmers from Terrebonne, Ore., recently used incentives from BPA and Central Electric Cooperative to upgrade their line-shaft turbine and irrigation pump, affectionately known as Big Bertha. Now they can better manage the watering requirements for the various crops on their 530 acres.

TO WATCH this and other videos, go to www.bpa.gov/go/news. You can also visit our **Facebook** page and **YouTube** channel.



With financial support from BPA, the Yakima Nation releases an estimated 2 million juvenile coho per year into the Yakima, Wenatchee and Methow watersheds in Washington. Chelan and Grant public utility districts also contribute money to the Wenatchee and Methow coho programs.

Yakama Tribal biologists want to expand their coho hatchery program in the Methow and Wenatchee subbasins. BPA has drafted an environmental impact statement and is reviewing public comments received on the proposal. If the project moves forward, one goal is to establish harvestable populations of coho in those subbasins over the next 20 years. The scientists aim to increase the number of fish that spawn naturally as self-sustaining stocks.

La Niña not done with the NW

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center recently announced that La Niña conditions have redeveloped over the Pacific Ocean and will continue into this winter. We all know what that means for the Northwest. Right?

Suggest that "we all know what that means" in the presence of BPA's meteorological staff and it's likely to elicit a chuckle. The reality is La Niña is a seasonal weather pattern that lasts several months. While a La Niña increases the chance that this winter will be wetter and cooler, it is by no means a rule.

Last year is an example of how tricky La Niña years can be. In the coastal part of the region and the Portland area, the first part of the winter was cooler and wetter. This was not the case in the mountains of Canada, Montana and Idaho that produce the runoff that fuels the hydro system. In February, the effects of La Niña finally spread north into Canada, with lower than normal temperatures and lots of precipitation in those areas as well.

Forecasters say the only thing that is certain this year is that there is greater uncertainty. Back-to-back La Niñas are not very frequent, thus it is harder to predict what they will bring. "This uncertainty is made even worse because this second La Niña is likely to be weak, which makes other atmospheric oscillations just as important, if not more so," cautioned BPA meteorologist Erik Pytlak.

Two things are sure as we approach winter: La Niña will likely be back, and BPA will be watching her closely to see how she behaves.

For more information on La Niña and NOAA's recent announcement, go to www.noaaneews.noaa.gov.

BPA makes annual Treasury payment

Demonstrating its financial stability, BPA made a scheduled payment of \$830 million for fiscal year 2011 to the U.S. Treasury on Oct. 5, 2011. This marks the 28th consecutive year BPA has made the payment on time and in full.

BPA's annual Treasury payments comprise principal and interest primarily on the federal investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System's power and transmission facilities. The federal fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

BPA is a self-financed agency that covers all of its costs with revenues from Northwest ratepayers and other purchasers of its power and transmission products and services. BPA receives no annual appropriations from the U.S. Congress. None of the outstanding BPA debt can be forgiven by the U.S. Treasury. To safeguard the Treasury and American taxpayers, BPA requires in its ratemaking process more than 95 percent certainty of making annual scheduled Treasury payments over two consecutive years (or 97.5 percent certainty of making the annual scheduled payments).

"BPA's stellar record of payments reflects our conservative approach to fiscal management and is a clear indicator that BPA is financially stable," said Steve Wright, BPA administrator.

The Treasury payment included \$410 million in principal and \$382 million in interest. BPA also paid \$38 million in other obligations, including \$31 million to ensure that ratepayers — not taxpayers — fully fund post-retirement benefit programs for Federal Columbia River Power System employees.

The principal payment includes \$70 million in early retirement of Treasury debt (principal repaid earlier than planned) as part of BPA's debt optimization program. BPA's debt optimization program is implemented in partnership with Energy Northwest, which operates the region's only nuclear power plant, and is designed to restore BPA's federal borrowing authority.

In addition to the Treasury payment, BPA paid operation and maintenance expenses for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service projects directly funded by BPA. These expenses came to \$280 million in fiscal year 2011.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Quarterly Business Review [Regionwide]

BPA will hold its Quarterly Business Review Nov. 1. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/finance/ibr/qbr. [SEE CALENDAR]

Strategic Capital Discussions [Regionwide]

BPA has rescheduled its Strategic Capital Discussion for Nov. 18. All interested parties are invited to participate in the meeting to help BPA shape its capital funding strategy over the next 10 years. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/FinancePublicProcesses/2011CapitalStratDisc.cfm. [SEE CALENDAR]

POWER — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Albeni Falls winter operations [Bonner County, Idaho]

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and BPA are considering comments received on the Albeni Falls Dam draft EA. For information about the proposed flexible winter power operations at Albeni Falls Dam or to view the draft EA, go to <http://bit.ly/n0a0wx>.

Proposed CFAC power sales agreement [Regionwide]

BPA is completing the NEPA analysis for the proposed power sales agreement between BPA and the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. Under the agreement, BPA would sell 140 average megawatts to CFAC, which could allow CFAC to operate two of five potlines at its Columbia Falls, Mont., smelter. BPA is reviewing this proposal in light of its Direct Service Industry Options EIS and is finalizing a Supplement Analysis pursuant to NEPA regulations. The draft agreement is at www.bpa.gov/go/cfacpowersales. The DSIO EIS is at http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Direct_Service_Industry_Options/.

FISH AND WILDLIFE — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Lolo Creek permanent weir fish trapping facility [Clearwater County, Idaho]

BPA will accept comments through Dec. 2 on a proposal to fund the replacement of a 10-year old seasonal fish weir. A weir is a fence or other structure placed across the creek to block passage for the purpose of catching and retaining fish. The weir would be used to monitor federally listed Snake River steelhead and for the collection of spring Chinook salmon adults to support ongoing supplementation programs in the watershed. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/lolocreekweir.

Kootenai River Native Fish Aquaculture Program [Boundary County, Idaho]

BPA is accepting comments through Nov. 14 on a proposal to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's Native Fish Aquaculture Program. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/kootenaiaquaculture.

Klickitat Hatchery Complex Program [Klickitat and Yakima counties, Wash.]

BPA accepted comments through Oct. 10, and is incorporating them into the EIS. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Klickitat_Hatchery_Program/.

Kalispel Memorandum of Understanding [Pend Oreille County, Wash.]

The Kalispel Tribe and the three federal action agencies are proposing to enter a 10-year Memorandum of Agreement for fish and wildlife mitigation projects. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Kalispel_MOA/.

Yakama Nation Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project [Chelan and Okanogan Counties, Wash.]

BPA is preparing a Final EIS. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/midcolumbiacoho.

Springfield Sockeye Hatchery Project [Bingham County, Idaho]

BPA is preparing a Supplement Analysis. For information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Springfield_Sockeye_Hatchery/.

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/.

TRANSMISSION — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Alvey-Fairview line rebuild [Lane, Douglas and Coos counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the Alvey-Fairview No.1 transmission line. A 30-day public comment period will open Nov. 28. BPA will host public meetings on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. For information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx. [SEE CALENDAR]

Network Open Season and Generation Interconnection Reform [Regionwide]

BPA presented its refined analysis on potential changes to the Precedent Transmission Service Agreement process at a public workshop Oct. 12. Customers and stakeholders discussed potential changes in more detail during a public conference call Oct. 27. BPA is accepting public comments about possible changes to the PTSA process through Nov. 2. Comments and any other questions regarding the PTSA Reform Initiative should be directed to techforum@bpa.gov. For information, go to http://transmission.bpa.gov/customer_forums/open_season_2011/.

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 in Troutdale, Ore. A draft EIS is scheduled for fall 2011 followed by a formal comment period. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

Lund Hill Wind Interconnection Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

BPA is deciding whether to interconnect up to 60 megawatts from the proposed Lund Hill Wind Project. To interconnect the project, BPA would build a new substation, the Wood Creek Substation, along an existing BPA transmission line near Roosevelt, Wash. BPA will complete a ROD in fall or winter 2011. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/lundhillwind.

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

BPA expects to release a Final EA and FONSI in November 2011. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/coulee.

Creston-Bell Transmission Line Rebuild [Lincoln and Spokane counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild approximately 54 miles of 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. For information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Creston_Bell/.

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. A draft EIS will be issued in December 2011. For information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Albany-Eugene_Rebuild/.

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. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/hoopersprings.

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

BPA is deciding whether to interconnect up to 101 megawatts from the proposed Juniper Canyon II Wind Project. To interconnect the project, BPA would build a new substation, the Wood Creek Substation, along an existing BPA transmission line near Roosevelt, Wash. BPA will complete a ROD in fall or winter 2011. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/junipercanyonII.

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

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

Whistling Ridge Energy Project [Skamania County, Washington]

BPA and Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council released a final EIS in August. BPA plans to issue a ROD in winter 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.]

For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/docs/2010/.

Transmission Services Facility Project [Vancouver, Wash.]

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

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

Initial construction activities began in September. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy-Knight/.

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

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/.

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

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/.

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:

- **Nov. 1**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

Strategic Capital Discussion:

- **Nov. 18**, 9 a.m. to noon, BPA Rates Hearing Room 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

Alvey-Fairview line rebuild public meetings:

- **Nov. 30**, 5 to 7 p.m., Sutherlin Community Center, 126 E. Central Avenue, Sutherlin, Ore.
- **Dec. 7**, 5 to 7 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 E. Main Street, Cottage Grove, Ore.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Unless otherwise noted, submit comments to www.bpa.gov/comment.

- **Nov. 2**, PTSA reform (submit comments to techforum@bpa.gov)
- **Nov. 14**, Kootenai River Native Fish Aquaculture Program
- **Dec. 2**, Lolo Creek permanent weir fish trapping facility

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.

