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Journal

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BPA gets off Superfund list

BPA's Ross Complex in Vancouver, Wash., is in the process of being deleted from the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund National Priority List. The site was listed in November 1989 based on the presence of volatile organic compounds in groundwater and the site's proximity to the Vancouver, Wash., drinking water supply. After years of monitoring the groundwater, it was determined that the Ross Complex did not threaten the quality of neighboring drinking water supplies. An old landfill operated during the 1950s and 1960s was encapsulated to ensure that rainfall would not leach out any contamination that might otherwise enter the groundwater. A notice of intent to delete the site was published in the Federal Register on July 18. The public is invited to comment on the proposed decision until Aug. 17, 1996. Barring any unforeseen problems, the site is expected to be deleted from the list this month. All cleanup actions are complete and no further cleanup actions or monitoring is required. Nationwide, only three other federal sites have been removed from the EPA's Superfund list.

(See [status report section](#).)

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More staff cuts expected

BPA expects to reduce staff by as many as 900 employees by 1999. The move is expected to save BPA \$70 million annually. At an all-employee meeting on July 10, chief operating officer Sue Hickey announced new staff reduction targets of approximately 500 BPA employees and approximately 400 contractors over the next three years. BPA is currently undergoing a re-engineering effort that may result in slight changes to the targets. BPA hopes to avoid involuntary reductions in force. BPA used voluntary separation incentives, a hiring freeze and attrition to reduce staff by close to 500 over the last two years. In the early 1990s, BPA had close to 3,700 employees. Today, the number is 3,230. In addition, contract staff has been reduced by about 500.

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BPA and customers agree on power contracts

On June 28, BPA reached agreement with its 123 public power customers on the amount of power they will take from BPA over the next five years. Most customers made a purchase commitment by signing an amendment to their existing contracts. A few public customers are negotiating new power sales contracts. These negotiations are expected to be completed within the next few weeks. The contracts and amendments will be in effect until September 30, 2001. The revenue target was revised from \$1.018 billion to \$998 million because of a reduction in projected rates from 24.9 mills per kilowatt to 24.4 mills. BPA expects \$988 million in revenues from recent five-year contract agreements with its public power customers.

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BPA and Clark reach agreement

Clark Public Utilities and BPA have reached agreement on how much power Clark will buy from BPA for the next five years. Under the agreement, Clark will reduce its BPA purchases from 200 to 100 average megawatts on Oct. 1, 1996, and to 10 average megawatts on Aug. 1, 1997. As part of the agreement, PacifiCorp and Washington Water Power have agreed to pay exit fees to BPA that are equivalent to the amount BPA would have received from Clark. Clark intends to purchase power from

PacifiCorp and WWP. The agreement also includes settlement of a lawsuit by Clark. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, will be dismissed once various contracts are in place to implement terms of the settlement.

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Congress reviews BPA

On July 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 1997 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. The bill includes a provision to repeal BPA's voluntary separation incentive program in 1997. BPA received permanent authority for the incentives in the fiscal year 1996 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. The 1997 bill also reduces BPA's borrowing authority by \$20 million. The House committee directed that BPA not allocate any new funds to the Energy Services Business line pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System and pending approval by the appropriate committees of Congress. The Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Committee rejected the House committee provision to repeal BPA's voluntary separation incentive program in 1997 and also rejected the House committee's report language to reduce BPA's borrowing authority by \$20 million. BPA had requested these funds for the Energy Services Business line. The fiscal year 1997 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill was approved by the Senate on July 30. The House and Senate will appoint a conference committee, expected to meet in September, to resolve the differences between the two bills.

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Senate calls for independent fish panel

On July 11, The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee approved an amendment appointing an independent scientific review panel to recommend projects for funding from BPA's annual fish and wildlife budget. The amendment was then passed by the full Appropriations Committee and the Senate. The panel is expected to consist of eleven members, including Northwest scientists experienced in Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife issues. The Northwest Power Planning Council will appoint the members from a list of nominees submitted by the National Academy of Sciences. Once the panel is selected, it will review projects for funding and make recommendations to the council. The council is expected to incorporate the recommendations in its final decisions when determining which projects to fund. If the council chooses not to follow the recommendations, it must explain its reasons in writing.

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Tree triggers power outage

A significant disturbance occurred on July 2 on the interconnected power system in the Western System Coordinating Council region resulting in power outages in 11 Western states affecting approximately 2 million people. Power was restored to most customers within 30 minutes. The disturbance was initiated by a flashover between a transmission line and a tree growing too close to the 345-kilovolt transmission line between Jim Bridger generating plant near Rock Springs, Wyo., and Kinport Substation in southeastern Idaho. A WSCC investigation team issued a draft report citing a combination of occurrences that led to the outage and generally concluded that the system was "unknowingly being

operated in a manner that was not in compliance with the WSCC Minimum Operating Reliability Criteria.” The WSCC is a regional electric reliability council with 88 members providing electric service to 59 million people in 14 western states, two Canadian provinces and parts of one state in Mexico. The alternating-current lines of the California-Oregon intertie, which were carrying 4260 megawatts of power at the time of the outage, were out of service temporarily. The direct-current line had no outage. BPA suffered damage to two circuit breakers but all critical repairs were completed by July 3.

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[Comprehensive Review](#) update

On July 29, the steering committee received a draft “strawman” proposal from the workgroups of the [Comprehensive Review](#) of the Northwest Energy System. The proposal’s preliminary recommendations include having a transmission system operated by an independent grid operator with BPA as a member, open access for all retail customers by 2001 and a meters charge equivalent to \$1 per month per household for market transformation projects, renewables, and low- income weatherization. The proposal is available by calling the Northwest Power Planning Council at 1-800-222-3355.

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Forum looks at change in electric industry

BPA is sponsoring a one-day forum in the Portland area on Sept. 11. Paul Hawken, the keynote speaker and author of “The Ecology of Commerce,” will address changes in the electric industry and their effects on the marketplace. Other planned events include a presentation by the Electric Power Research Institute and a panel of commercial and industrial representatives sharing ideas on what they want and expect from electric providers of the future. The forum is intended for marketing/energy services managers and staff of both publicly owned and investor-owned utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit displays, booths, exhibits and demonstrations of various electrotechnologies available in the marketplace today, including electric vehicles. More information is available by calling the Northwest Public Power Association at 360-254-0109.

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BPA presents options paper to Comprehensive Review

On July 12, BPA Administrator Randy Hardy presented a white paper entitled “Alternatives for Restructuring the Northwest Electric Utility Industry” to the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System. BPA’s paper presents a range of alternatives that provide a great deal of flexibility and incorporate four goals. The goals include maximizing benefits for end-use consumers, continuing the public benefits BPA provides, developing a plan flexible enough to work regardless of the future and achieving these goals without increasing costs or risks to the taxpayer. BPA believes three key factors indicate that a continued federal presence is the most feasible outcome for the region. They are non-federal debt obligations, public benefits and responsibilities, and agreements with Northwest tribes and the Canadian government. The white paper offers restructuring options along three scenarios — no legislation, limited legislation and broader legislation. The white paper is available by calling [BPA’s document request line](#).

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Public Involvement

Status reports

Albeni Falls Wildlife Management Plan/EA. The preliminary draft (#1099) is available. Call to request a copy.

Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir Resident Fish Project EA. The preliminary EA will be available in late August. Call to get on the mail list.

BPA/PGE Transmission Support Project. An EA is being prepared on a proposed 230kV transmission line between BPA's Pearl Substation in Wilsonville and the Sherwood Substation in Sherwood. The EA is expected this fall. Call to be added to the mail list. **Columbia Gorge Project Vegetation Management.** An EA/ FONSI is expected in August. Call to reserve your copy. **Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System (Regional Review).** Public workshops and hearings will be held around the region on the following dates:

- Oct. 9 in Eugene,
- Oct. 12 in Portland and Wenatchee,
- Oct. 13 in Spokane,
- Oct. 15 in Tri Cities/Hermiston,
- Oct. 16 in Boise,
- Oct. 17 in Portland (Steering Committee),
- Oct. 21 in Idaho Falls,
- Oct. 22 in Seattle and
- Nov. 6 in Missoula.

For further information, please call the Northwest Power Planning Council's Public Affairs office at 1-800-222-3355 or E-mail comments to comments@nwppc.org. Visit the [Comprehensive Review Home Page](http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/review/review.html) at <http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/review/review.html>.

Deletion of Ross Complex from Superfund List. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to delete the BPA Ross Complex Superfund Site from the National Priority List. Details are given in an FYI (#2911). Comments should be sent to Nancy Harney, Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 10, ECL-111, 1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98101. The public comment period ends August 17.

Excess Federal Power Statute Implementation Process. The ROD will be available in early August. Call to be put on the mail list.

Four Mile Hill Geothermal Project EIS (Glass Mountain). The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Generation and Sales Statics. The 1995 report is now available in the Information Center. If you have any questions, contact John Emery at 503-230-5662. For additional copies, contact Nadine Sheppard at 503-230-5175.

Grande Ronde River Captive Broodstock Project. The draft EA is being prepared. Please call to be

added to the mail list.

Hood River Fisheries Project. A ROD is expected in early September. Call for a copy.

Hungry Horse Reservation. The final ROD has been delayed until late September because of the need to conduct an EA. Call to be put on the mail list.

Kalispel Tribe Resident Fish Project EA. The project has been delayed pending resolution of an environmental issue. Call to be added to the mail list.

Kootenai River White Sturgeon Aquaculture Project. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS. The draft EIS (#2884) is available. A DEIS summary (#2885) and FYI (#2882) are also available. Call to get copies. The comment period for the DEIS ends August 16. See [Close of Comment](#).

Northwest Regional Power Facility. The final EIS (#2887) is available. Call to get a copy.

Oliver Delivery Project. An FYI (#2874) is available. Call to get on the mail list. The comment period has been extended to August 15. See [Close of Comment](#). BPA will prepare a summary of comments and make it available in an FYI later this summer.

Washington Wildlife Mitigation Project. A final Programmatic EA and FONSI (#2878) is available. Please call to request copies.

Watershed Management Program. An FYI (#2904) summarizing scoping comments will be available in August. Call to be added to the mail list.

Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS. The draft EIS will be available in August. Call for a copy. Close of Comment is October 1.

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Programmatic EIS. The Bureau of Reclamation is taking the lead on this project. Call Roberta Ries at 509-575-5848 ext. 265 to be added to the mail list.

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Close of Comment

Oliver Delivery Project: August 15

Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS: August 16

Residential Exchange Program Termination: August 18

Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS: October 1

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Acronyms:

EA: Environmental Assessment

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact

NOI: Notice of Intent

ROD: Record of Decision

Visit the BPA home page at <http://www.bpa.gov>.

The *Journal* is available on the Internet at <http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KC/home/journal/>.

We welcome all comments from you at Journal-CKC, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621 or enballa@bpa.gov.

For More Information or To Get Involved:

The *Journal* is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics.

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For questions/comments: call 230-3478 (Portland) or 800-622-4519, or E-mail to comment@bpa.gov. Address comments to: P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212.

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