



*in the news*

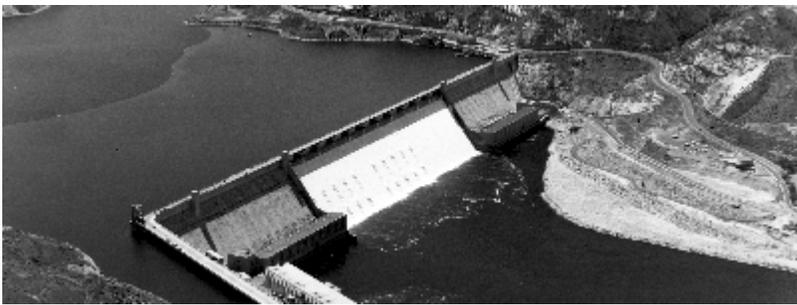
[home](#) [site search](#) [org chart](#) [contact us](#) [web comments](#)

A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

# Journal

[Click here for past Journals.](#)

*April 1997*



## Table of contents

### News stories:

- [Fish operations begin while flood control operations continue](#)
- [BPA exceeds conservation targets](#)
- [BPA sells first substation](#)
- [WSCC reviews intertie capacity](#)
- [LightWise program reduces cost of energy-efficient bulbs](#)
- [Hanford High School wins Science Bowl competition](#)
- [Washington Nuclear Plant 2 sets operating record](#)
- [Peña confirmed as U.S. secretary of energy](#)
- [Who is responsible for protecting fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin?](#)

### Public involvement

- [Status reports](#)
- [Calendar of events](#)
-

## How you can get involved

---

### **Fish operations begin while flood control operations continue**

Every April, fish operations begin to help juvenile salmon and steelhead migrate down the Snake and Columbia rivers to reach the ocean. The 1997 season begins April 10 under extremely high water conditions. The amount of water forecast to flow into the rivers from snowmelt is projected to be the largest on record for the Snake River and in the top 10 of the historical record for the Columbia River at The Dalles, Ore. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to operate the dams for flood control on both rivers.

BPA is working with the Corps, the Bureau of Reclamation, private and public utilities, and others to reduce spill. Spill is water passed over a dam's spillway rather than being sent through the turbines. Large amounts of spill can increase levels of dissolved gas in the water, causing gas-bubble disease in fish. The gas can cause damage by entering the blood vessels and organs of the fish.

The forecasted high water could produce dissolved gas above acceptable levels in late April to mid-July. Reducing spill will help to reduce dissolved gas levels.

All but five turbines at the lower Snake and Columbia dams are expected to be available compared to last year when 10 turbines were out of service. Water passing through the turbines will generate power and reduce spill. Another strategy is to draw down storage reservoirs as much as possible by early spring to allow as much spring runoff to be stored as possible. The high voltage power lines that connect the Northwest and California power systems have been operating at reduced capacity in the wake of major outages last summer. BPA is working with the Western Systems Coordinating Council to complete a series of studies that may recommend restoring most, if not all, of the capacity of these lines in time for the fish season.

BPA is also taking the following actions:

- Shutting down Washington Nuclear Plant 2 before the fish migration season begins and not returning it to power until gas levels are at acceptable levels
- Selling power at low cost to other utilities so they will shut down their thermal power plants and use federal hydropower
- Working with other utilities to distribute spill over as many hydroelectric projects as possible to distribute spill outside of the fish migration area-BPA provides power to the owners of the non-federal hydro projects to replace the energy that would have been generated
- Working with the state of Idaho to investigate removing some water from the Snake River and running it through the Snake River aquifer

The volume of water this spring will likely overwhelm the hydro system even if all turbines are running. BPA will continue to work with the Corps and Reclamation to reduce spill as much as possible.

*[\(return to table of contents\)](#)*

---

## **BPA exceeds conservation targets**

Last month's Journal reported conservation savings of about 60 average megawatts in 1996 from BPA-funded programs. The conservation target for fiscal year 1996 was 30 average megawatts. Savings in 1996 were the fourth-highest since BPA's conservation program began in 1982.

*[\(return to table of contents\)](#)*

---

## **BPA sells first substation**

BPA has completed negotiations on its first sale of a low-voltage substation. Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative based in Eugene, Ore., purchased the Parker Substation northwest of Eugene. The sale included a transformer, a circuit switcher and disconnect switches. The co-op already owns the land. BPA agreed to sell some substations to its customers as part of the transmission rates settlement in April 1996. Customers asked to buy the low-voltage delivery substations they use. To date, 39 customers have asked to buy 127 small substations. In line with the schedule set by April's settlement, BPA sent suggested prices to customers for 32 facilities in late December. Blachly-Lane was among the first to respond with an application fee, triggering negotiations for Parker Substation. BPA will begin negotiations on 18 other facilities soon. All substations are less than 34.5 kilovolt sites. In late February, the agency sent suggested prices for 42 more substations to interested utilities. Utilities have 180 days to respond. BPA will offer prices on the remaining low-voltage facilities over the next four months. Prices negotiated ensure the federal investment is fully recovered and that costs or liabilities are not shifted from one group of ratepayers to another. Customers would set operations and maintenance standards and assume O&M costs. The sale offers do not affect the BPA's high-voltage system or the reliability of the transmission grid.

*[\(return to table of contents\)](#)*

---

## **WSCC reviews intertie capacity**

The Western Systems Coordinating Council Board of Trustees voted last month to increase the California-Oregon Intertie from 5200 megawatts to 6250 megawatts. The intertie had been reduced from its rated capacity of 7900 megawatts since a major West Coast power outage in August. A blue ribbon panel of industry experts and WSCC's Operating Capability Study Group agreed with BPA's studies supporting the increase of the intertie's capacity. The intertie capacity will not be increased until operating procedures are endorsed by the Operating Capability Study Group.

*[\(return to table of contents\)](#)*

---

## **LightWise program reduces cost of energy-efficient bulbs**

The LightSaver program has a new name-LightWise. The LightWise program is a market transformation effort designed to reduce the cost of high quality energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs. Through the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, private and public utilities are providing incentive payments to compact fluorescent bulb manufacturers. These bulbs are then sold to retailers at a reduced wholesale cost, reducing the retail costs to the \$6 to \$12 range-about half the current retail price. These technologically-advanced bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy than conventional incandescent bulbs and last up to ten times longer. In 1996 over 134,000 of the LightWise bulbs were sold to Northwest

consumers. The program is growing, with 12 models of bulbs from four manufacturers included in 1997. Sponsors hope the combination of lower-cost bulbs and increased consumer demand will permanently reduce the cost of all compact fluorescent bulbs. The high-quality lights range from 13 to 30 watts each and are designed to replace 60- to 150-watt incandescent bulbs. Customers can purchase LightWise bulbs at a variety of home improvement retailers throughout the Northwest. BPA provides funding for the program along with other Northwest utilities.

[\*\(return to table of contents\)\*](#)

---

### **Hanford High School wins Science Bowl competition**

BPA sponsored its sixth annual Regional High School Science Bowl on March 8 in Portland, Ore. The winning team from Hanford High School in Richland, Wash., will compete in the Department of Energy-sponsored National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., May 2-5. Seventy-six high school teams from Oregon and Washington competed in the Regional Science Bowl. The second place team was also from Richland-Richland High School. Tualatin (Ore.) High School placed third and Woodinville (Wash.) High School finished fourth. The students were questioned on math, biology, chemistry, computer science, physics and astronomy in the Jeopardy-style competition.

Wood Middle School from Wilsonville, Ore., won the fifth annual Middle School Science Bowl competition in Portland on Feb. 22. Thirty-seven teams competed. Athey Creek (Ore.) finished second, Lake Oswego (Ore.) Junior High placed third and Estacada (Ore.) Junior High was fourth. The winning middle school teams will receive free flights to a scientific site from the Experimental Aircraft Association-Chapter 105 based at Twin Oaks Air Park near Hillsboro, Ore. The BPA-sponsored event is the only middle-school Science Bowl competition in the nation.

[\*\(return to table of contents\)\*](#)

---

### **Washington Nuclear Plant 2 sets operating record**

The Washington Public Power Supply System announced that Washington Nuclear Plant 2 has set a continuous operating record of 268 days as of March 25. The operating cycle began on June 29, 1996. The previous record was set in 1994 at 257 days. At press time WNP-2 was scheduled to shut down for annual maintenance on March 28. The plant is expected to be out of service until July. The power generated at WNP-2 is transmitted to BPA, which in turn supplies this power to its customers.

[\*\(return to table of contents\)\*](#)

---

### **Peña confirmed as U.S. secretary of energy**

Federico Peña became the new U.S. secretary of energy on March 12 after confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Peña served as secretary of transportation in President Clinton's first term. BPA is a separate and distinct entity within the Department of Energy.

[\*\(return to table of contents\)\*](#)

---

## Who is responsible for protecting fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin?

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and several state agencies have responsibility to protect fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin. NMFS, a part of the Department of Commerce, provides management and research services for the protection, conservation and use of marine resources. The agency also studies the impacts of natural and human activities, such as operation of dams, on marine life. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior, is the lead federal agency in the conservation of the nation's migratory birds, certain mammals and sport fish. Fish hatcheries, biological monitoring and enforcement of several animal protection laws are part of the service's mission. The Idaho Fish and Game Department, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are the state agencies that protect and manage fish and wildlife in their states.

The Northwest Power Planning Council was established by Congress to develop a fish and wildlife plan for the populations affected by the dams in the Columbia River Basin. The Council consists of two members from each of the four Northwest states appointed by the governors. BPA funds the Council's plan. The federal and state fish and wildlife agencies work with the Council to implement the plan.

*(return to table of contents)*

---

---

## Public Involvement

### Status Reports

**Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir Resident Fish Project EA.** Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Nevada - Partial mitigation for the loss of anadromous fish. The final EA/FONSI is available. Call for a copy.

**BPA/Lower Valley Transmission Project.** Idaho and Wyoming - To resolve a voltage stability problem in the Jackson and Afton, Wyo. areas; new 115-kV line proposed on existing right-of-way where possible. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Columbia Windfarm #1.** Washington - The final EIS (#2682) has been completed. Call to get a copy.

**Four Mile Hill Geothermal Project EIS (Glass Mountain).** Northern California - A geothermal power plant and 30 miles of new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service lands in the Klamath and Modoc Forests. The Forest Service has the lead; BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Grand Ronde River Spring Chinook Project.** Ore-gon - Captive broodstock program. The preliminary EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Kootenai River White Sturgeon Conservation Aquaculture Project.** Northern Idaho, Montana and Canada - Captive broodstock program. A final EA/FONSI will be available in April. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Methow Valley Irrigation District EA.** Northern Washington - A proposal to convert the open canal irrigation system to pressurized pipes and wells. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mailing list.

**Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS.** Idaho - Supplementation of anadromous salmonids. The final EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Northwest Regional Power Facility.** Washington - To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) is available. Call for a copy.

**Upper Snake River Fish Culture Facility.** Idaho - BPA plans to purchase a tribal hatchery for domestic rainbow trout and develop an experimental hatchery for Yellowstone cutthroat and redband trout. A preliminary EA is being prepared.

**Watershed Management Program.** Region-wide - Guidelines for funding watershed improvement projects. The final EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS.** Region-wide - Guidelines for funding wildlife mitigation projects. The final EIS has been completed. Call to receive a copy.

**Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Programmatic EIS.** Washington - The Bureau of Reclamation is taking the lead on this project. BPA is a cooperating agency. A draft programmatic EIS is expected in April. For further information or to be put on the mailing list, contact John Tiedeman, BOR, at (509) 575-5848 ext. 238.

*(return to table of contents)*

---

## Calendar of Events

Retail Wheeling Public Meeting: **April 8**, 9 - 11 am, Rates Hearing Room B, Lloyd Center, Portland, Ore.

*(return to table of contents)*

---

### 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 Intranet at <http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KC/home/journal/>.

---

We welcome all comments from you at Journal-ACS, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621 or [enballa@bpa.gov](mailto: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.

**To order documents or to subscribe to a "hard copy" version of the *Journal*:** call 800-622-4520 or 230-3478 (Portland) or [click here](#).

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

**BPA Offices:**

Boise - 208-334-9137

Missoula - 406-329-3060

Seattle - 206-216-4272

Spokane - 509-353-2515

Walla Walla - 509-527-6225

Washington, D.C. - 202-586-5640

Vancouver, Wash. - 360-418-8600

BPA Public Involvement, Internet, E-mail address: [Comment@BPA.gov](mailto:Comment@BPA.gov)

*([return to table of contents](#))*

---

The *Journal* is edited by Nicia Balla, BPA Corporate Communications, [enballa@bpa.gov](mailto:enballa@bpa.gov).

The Public Involvement section is compiled by Jean Pennington, BPA Corporate Communications, [japennington@bpa.gov](mailto:japennington@bpa.gov).

The Web page version of the *Journal* is maintained by BPA Communications, [intcomm@bpa.gov](mailto:intcomm@bpa.gov) and Judy Tyson, BPA Communications.

---