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A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Journal

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Nez Perce tribal member Pewee Taylor looks over Joseph Canyon in northeast Oregon. The Tribe recently purchased ancestral land for wildlife mitigation with funds from BPA.

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BPA exceeds 1997 conservation targets

BPA conservation programs have surpassed 1997 savings targets. The Energy Efficiency group set a target of 29 average megawatts of savings for 1997. Six months into the fiscal year, BPA customers have already achieved 31 average megawatts of new energy savings. Most of the savings come from industrial and multi-sector programs and new building codes. More savings are expected by the end of the fiscal year in September.

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NEV purchases power from BPA

New Energy Ventures of California is picking up its contract option to purchase 200 megawatts of power from BPA in advance of California's start on retail access. NEV created the buyers' alliance last year and intends to act as the membership's power broker. NEV will sell the 200 megawatts of power to two companies for six months beginning June 30. The power will then be available to California customers beginning Jan. 1, 1998, when electricity customers will be able to choose their own electricity provider. The companies are Omaha-based ConAgra, Inc. and Houston-based NorAm Energy Corp. This is New Energy Ventures' first power purchase from BPA under a contract signed last August.

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Northwest senators ask VP and governors for help on fish and transmission issues

The eight Northwest senators wrote to Vice President Al Gore asking him to work with the four Northwest governors to develop a proposal for extending the current Fish and Wildlife Memorandum of Agreement past 2001. The agreement was put in place last year to stabilize BPA's fish and wildlife expenditures for five years. A post-2001 agreement would provide stability for fish funding and for customers signing new power purchase contracts. The senators called for the MOA process to be completed by April 30, 1998.

The senators also wrote a letter to the four Northwest governors asking them to help the senators as they work to develop legislation "to remove barriers to BPA's participation in a regional transmission system that would be open to all electricity providers." The legislation would also include a "reasonable separation of BPA's transmission and marketing functions while ensuring BPA's ability to meet its obligations to bondholders, its annual Treasury payment, and fish and wildlife obligations." The senators also asked the Transition Board of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System and the Northwest Power Planning Council to assist them as they develop legislation.

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Fish arrive at Cle Elum hatchery

The first of a planned total of 367 spring chinook salmon were delivered to the Cle Elum fish supplementation hatchery in late May. More fish, collected using a random selection process at Rosa Dam on the Yakima River, will arrive by truck through August. The goal of supplementation is to rebuild healthy runs of salmon in their natural ecosystem using the most advanced fish culture techniques. But the success of supplementation remains to be proven. Research conducted at the Cle Elum facility, following very systematic plans, will tell how well supplementation can work and help develop the best fish culture approaches to rebuild wild salmon runs. At the same time, the supplementation process aims to maintain the genetic fitness of the fish population by restricting interaction with other stocks. If successful, a supplementation hatchery would eventually work itself out of a job by producing enough naturally spawning fish with a sufficiently high survival rate to be able to phase out artificial production. The hatchery is located about two miles off Interstate 90, an hour's drive east of Seattle near the city of Cle Elum, Wash. The project was funded by BPA.

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IndeGO update

IndeGO plans to file a proposal on Sept. 2 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Northwest state commissions to form an Independent System Operator. BPA will offer illustrative information as part of the filing by developing tariffs and rates as if BPA were part of IndeGO. IndeGO parties will complete the draft filing in July, followed by a 30-day public review and comment period. BPA has four major issues that must be resolved before it can participate: (

1. congressional legislation is needed before BPA can participate,
2. the public must have a say in what happens to federal and ratepayer investment in the transmission system,
3. reliability of the system must be maintained and
4. costs should not be shifted between customer classes.

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Moler is sworn in as deputy secretary

Elizabeth Moler was sworn in as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy on June 18. Moler had been chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission since 1993 and a commissioner since 1988 before assuming the number two job at DOE. Moler's oversight responsibilities include BPA.

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NEEA sponsors WashWise

The [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance](#) is sponsoring WashWise, a market transformation venture to

market resource-efficient clothes washers in the Northwest. The WashWise program offers a \$130 rebate to electric water-heating customers when they purchase a resource-efficient clothes washer. NEEA hopes to increase the market share of the washers over the next three years. Some water utilities are offering additional rebates in their service territories. The 1997 WashWise goal is to sell approximately 2,700 resource-efficient machines in the Northwest. The horizontal axis “tumble action” washers use about 40 percent less water, 60 percent less energy to heat water and 60 percent less detergent than a typical vertical axis machine. The NEEA is a non-profit consortium of private and public utilities, BPA and other federal and state agencies, public interest groups and trade groups.

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Congressmen call for BPA cost management group

Oregon congressmen Bob Smith and Peter DeFazio sent a letter to BPA and the Northwest Power Planning Council asking the two agencies to convene a group to work with BPA on cost management issues. Smith and DeFazio recommended that the group submit a preliminary report within 90 days. Both congressmen praised BPA's cost-cutting efforts since 1994. BPA and the Council are working together to create a cost management group to ensure that BPA achieves a rate of 2 cents per kilowatt hour by the year 2000. The group is expected to consist of one member of the council's power committee, one senior BPA executive and selected management experts with no vested interest in BPA or its customers. The group is expected to prepare a report by mid-October with final recommendations by December.

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WSCC technical group proposes inertia rating

The Western Systems Coordinating Council's Operating Capabilities Study Group agreed to submit a proposal to the WSCC board of trustees calling for an interim operating level of 6300 megawatts on the inertia. The trustees must approve the proposal before it can be implemented. Recommendations for a summer operating level were held up pending more studies. The interim level of 6300 MW is expected to be in effect until July 30, when an approval of the summer operating level is expected. If approval is not made by then, the 6300 MW level can be extended rather than reverting to the default 5200 MW level.

The rated capacity of the inertia is 7900 MW. The inertia has been limited since last year because of power outages. The inertia has been operating at 7200 MW through June to help salmon by running more water through turbines to reduce the dissolved gas content in the Columbia River caused by spill. The inertia rating is reduced in late summer because reduced flows cause a corresponding reduction in generation.

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What's ahead for BPA

Over the next year, BPA will be focusing on four specific areas — subscription, separation, cost recovery and a post-2001 fish budget agreement.

Subscription — BPA will need a successful power sales process in conjunction with continued cost management to maintain a commercially successful business with stable revenues.

Separation — BPA is working to identify issues associated with splitting its generation and transmission businesses. Separation will need to speak to fundamental questions about how historical public benefits will be provided.

Cost Recovery — Cost recovery, or stranded costs, have captured growing national attention, raising public policy and equity issues for all electric utilities. The Comprehensive Review recommendations assume a method in which the Northwest has the opportunity to retain the benefits of the Columbia River hydropower system. BPA needs and the administration supports a contingent stranded cost recovery mechanism to avoid burdening the U.S. taxpayers. The administration supports statutory changes that create a more robust contingent stranded cost recovery mechanism. It is reasonable to expect the Northwest to absorb the costs. BPA expects to work with the Northwest governors' Transition Board to develop a mechanism that is fair, sustainable and financially sound.

Fish and Wildlife Mitigation — BPA's responsibilities remain uncertain after 2001 when the current fish agreement ends. BPA believes that a successor to the 1996 Fish and Wildlife Memorandum of Agreement, which is based on sound science and BPA's ability to attract customers and recover its costs, is needed in order to give the subscription process the opportunity to succeed.

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Editor's note

The URL of the Journal on the World Wide Web has changed. You can now reach it at:
<http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KCC/jl/journalx.htm>
Please update your bookmarks, favorites or hotlists accordingly.

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Public Involvement

Status Reports

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 (#2984) is available. Call to receive a copy. See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment.

Bonneville-Hood River Vegetation Management EA. Oregon -- To control vegetation on the 115-kV transmission line right-of-way between Bonneville Dam and Hood River in the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area. The Forest Service is a partner in developing the EA. 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 (Calpine). 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 Bureau of Land Management has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft EIS will be available in July. Call to receive a copy.

Grande Ronde River Spring Chinook Project. Oregon -- Captive broodstock program. This project is being re-evaluated.

Hungry Horse Reservation. Western Montana -- Terms and conditions for the sale of power beginning in 2001. The ROD supplement is available. Call to receive a copy.

Methow Valley Irrigation District EA. Northern Washington -- A proposal to convert the open canal irrigation system to pressurized pipes and wells. The preliminary EA (#2990) is available. Call to receive a copy. See Close of Comment.

Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS. Idaho -- Supplementation of anadromous salmonids. The final EIS will be available in July. Call to receive a copy.

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

Telephone Flats Geothermal Project EIS (Calenergy). Northern California -- A geothermal power plant and 26 miles of new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service lands in the Modoc Forest. The Bureau of Land Management has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Upper Snake River Fish Culture Facility. Idaho -- A proposal to purchase a tribal hatchery for redevelopment of Yellowstone cutthroat and redband trout. A preliminary EA will be available in July. Call to receive a copy.

NEW! Vegetation Management Program EIS. Region-wide -- To develop principles for cost-effective, consistent, efficient and environmentally acceptable means of controlling vegetation to maintain a safe and reliable transmission system. BPA has invited the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to be cooperating agencies. Scoping is underway. See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment.

Watershed Management Program. Region-wide -- Guidelines for funding watershed improvement projects. The final EIS (#2994) will be available in July. Call to receive a copy.

Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS. Region-wide -- Guidelines for funding wildlife mitigation projects. The ROD (#2993) is available. 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. The draft programmatic EIS is being prepared. For further information or to receive a copy, contact John Tiedeman, BOR, at (509) 575-5848 ext. 238.

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Calendar of Events

Vegetation Management Scoping Open House: July 10, 3 - 7 pm, BPA Headquarters, Room 106, 905 NE 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

BPA/Lower Valley Transmission Project: July 22, 4 - 8 pm, American Legion Hall, Wallace and Main, Driggs, Idaho; July 23, 4 - 8 pm, Lower Valley Power and Light, 4000 So. Hwy. 89, Jackson, Wyo.

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Close of Comment

Methow Valley Irrigation District Prelim. EA: **July 16**

Vegetation Management Program Review EIS: **July 23**

BPA/Lower Valley Transmission Project: **Aug. 5**

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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

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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:

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