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A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Journal

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BPA employees remove a shopping cart from the Willamette River in Portland as part of Earth Day cleanup activities.

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Issues 98 process begins in May

From May 19 through June 19, BPA will conduct meetings and accept comments on draft planning assumptions for several major policy issues affecting the agency for the rate period 2002-2006. Issues 98 provides an opportunity for the public to view the big issues at the same time in one process. The three biggest issues are fish and wildlife funding, cost structure of the Federal Columbia River Power System and subscription. Other issues are emergency cost recovery, transmission access and operation, and cost reduction measures. A Keeping Current enclosed with this month's Journal provides you with more information. Public meetings will be held in June in Seattle and Spokane. Smaller workshops will be held throughout the region.

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PGE and BPA reach agreement

BPA and [Portland General Electric](#) reached a settlement to phase out the remaining term of PGE's Residential Purchase and Sale Agreement. PGE's residential and small farm customers can expect a 5 percent rate decrease in the near future because of the settlement. PGE plans to file in May with the Oregon Public Utility Commission for the price decrease. Pending a favorable decision from the commission, the decrease could go into effect as early as June. The settlement involves the "residential exchange," also known as the Regional Power Act Credit. It is a mechanism established by the Northwest Power Act of 1980 that enables residential and small farm customers of investor-owned utilities to share in low-cost federal power produced by Columbia Basin dams and marketed by BPA at wholesale. Under the law, investor-owned utilities, such as PGE, pass on all the benefits accruing from the exchange directly to their customers.

A feature of the new agreement is that it allows customers access to federal power at cost. Under terms of the agreement, BPA will pay PGE \$25.5 million, which will be used to reduce the retail rates of PGE's residential and small farm customers up to the year 2001. PGE will also receive an option to buy 360 average megawatts of Columbia River power at cost after 2001. This will give PGE customers direct access to low-cost federal power comparable to the access provided public power customers. The amount of power involved in the agreement is sufficient to meet approximately a third of PGE's residential customers' electricity demand. PGE's residential and small farm customers will receive all the benefits of any power BPA sells to PGE under this agreement.

Under the agreement, PGE customers will see no future price increases related to the residential exchange program for the period ending June 30, 2001. PGE has also agreed to drop a related lawsuit against BPA before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

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Crime Witness program proves successful

BPA had a very significant reduction in gun shot insulator vandalism this last year, making 1997 the most successful year since the beginning of the Crime Witness Program. In 1997 only 237 insulator strings were replaced due to gun shot vandalism compared to 1,313 insulator strings in 1996. This is a reduction of almost 82 percent and represents a reduction in costs of over \$330,000 in just one year. BPA has been installing non-ceramic insulators on the agency's transmission lines. The non-ceramic insulators do not fracture as much from gun fire as the ceramic insulators, making it less appealing to vandals. The Crime Witness Program encourages anyone who sees or suspects a crime to the BPA transmission system, property or personnel to report it by calling 1-800-437-2744. Cash rewards of up to \$1,000 are paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons committing crimes against BPA. Names of witnesses and reward amounts are kept confidential.

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Customers sign up for BPA power

BPA recently closed deals for another 202 average megawatts of power sales for the years 2002-2006, adding about \$35 million a year to the revenues the agency can count on to fund its Northwest public purposes after the turn of the century. BPA has now sold roughly 865 average megawatts of power for the 2002-2006 period, securing about \$150 million a year in revenues. This summer BPA hopes to offer up to 8,000 average megawatts of power for sale in 2002-2006. Nearly half the region's power supply currently comes from BPA. Most of that power is generated from federal dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries.

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The NW conducts fish and wildlife processes

Fish and wildlife is one of the biggest and most complex issues facing BPA over the next few years. Several groups in the region are conducting fish and wildlife initiatives that may affect BPA. BPA invests hundreds of millions of dollars in fish and wildlife each year. Here is a summary of the initiatives. 1) The Three Sovereigns process (states, tribes and federal agencies) recently released a [report](#) for public comment. It is not a new fish and wildlife plan. Instead, it is a proposal to set up a governance structure for dealing with fish and wildlife issues, with the overall hope of bringing all fish and wildlife plans under one umbrella. The comment period closes on May 29. 2) The [National Marine Fisheries Service](#), which addresses only anadromous fish proposed or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, is developing a recovery plan for newly listed salmon and steelhead. A [draft biological opinion](#) was released earlier, and a final biological opinion is expected soon. 3) The [Northwest Power Planning Council](#), which addresses all fish and wildlife affected by hydropower operations, not just those that are endangered, is considering revisions to its Columbia Basin fish and wildlife program. Currently, the council is working on a program framework that will specify goals, ecological objectives and strategies that are linked by a scientific foundation.

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BPA releases Red Book

BPA recently released its annual Conservation Resource Energy Data, more commonly known as the Red Book. This report shows BPA-induced energy savings from 1982-97 total 690 average megawatts,

about enough power for the entire city of Portland. The fiscal year 1997 contribution to this total is 55 aMW, exceeding the 29 aMW target. Most of the 1997 savings came from negotiated customer contracts that allow utilities more flexibility in their conservation programs. Their conservation dollars can be spread across different programs, allowing them to operate more efficiently.

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Northern pikeminnow (squawfish) season begins in May

The northern pikeminnow (squawfish) season begins May 4 and runs through Sept. 27. During the season, BPA will offer a \$3 to \$5 reward for every northern pikeminnow (squawfish) 11 inches or longer returned to a registration station. The American Fisheries Society has proposed changing the common name of the salmon-eating northern squawfish to northern pikeminnow. Since 1990, over 1 million northern pikeminnow have been removed from the Snake and Columbia rivers thanks to the sport-reward fishery program. Millions of young salmon survived that otherwise would have been eaten. Biologists estimate that predation on juvenile salmonids has been cut by 36 percent. In the 1997 season, more than 119,000 northern pikeminnow were caught. Anglers may catch northern pikeminnow along the mainstem lower Columbia River up to Priest Rapids Dam in Washington and the Snake River up to Hells Canyon Dam in Idaho.

BPA and the region's ratepayers sponsor the Northern Pikeminnow (squawfish) Management Program as part of a comprehensive effort to protect and recover fish and wildlife affected by hydropower development. Northern pikeminnow are major predators of young salmon, devouring millions of smolt each year. Researchers believe reducing the number of pikeminnow is one of the best ways to reduce predation mortality. The [Pacific States Marine Fisheries](#), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), and Tribes implement the program. For more information on the northern pikeminnow program, call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Sport Reward Hot Line at 1-800-858-9015.

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Supply System's WNP-2 shuts down for annual maintenance

The [Washington Public Power Supply System](#) shut down its Nuclear Plant 2 on April 18 for annual refueling and maintenance. The plant is expected to be out of operation for 53 days, 10 days less than had been scheduled. Shortening the outage time will help reduce the plant's power costs. The Supply System has reduced costs at WNP-2 from 3.45 cents a kilowatt-hour in 1994 to 2.12 cents this year. The power generated at WNP-2 is transmitted to BPA and BPA then supplies this power to its customers.

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BPA employees contribute to Earth Day activities

BPA employees contributed to Earth Day activities around the region. In Seattle, employees cleaned up parks in the Puget Sound area. The annual EarthWork event is sponsored by the Student Conservation Assn. The BPA employees served on one of 200 teams from businesses and organizations in the Seattle area that joined in the cleanup. The BPA team worked at Discovery Park and China Lake. They collected beach litter and cleared overgrown brush.

Nearly 100 employees took part in Earth Day projects sponsored by BPA at Portland and Vancouver, Wash. At Vancouver, volunteers removed brush and trimmed the west section of the Ellen Davis Trail that crosses BPA's Ross Complex. The group spent three hours on the trail and filled eight to nine pickup loads with debris. The Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department supported the BPA cleanup.

Portland employees worked in morning and afternoon shifts at Willamette Cove along the Willamette River. They dug, pulled and pruned brush to save trees and clear areas for the future park in the St. Johns neighborhood. They also removed debris along the cove shore. Some BPA executives, including acting Chief Executive Officer Jack Robertson and acting Chief Operating Officer Steve Hickok, joined fellow employees for the cleanup projects. Students from two local schools also took part. A park official from the Metro regional authority briefed folks on the site and directed the cleanup effort.

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Public Involvement

Status Reports

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

Big Eddy-Ostrander Vegetation Management EA. Ore. — To control vegetation on two segments of the 500-kV transmission line right-of-way. One segment is from Lolo Pass to near Parkdale. The other segment is east of Parkdale. The Forest Service is a partner and an EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Bonneville-Hood River Vegetation Management EA. Ore. — 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. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Columbia Windfarm #1. Wash. — The final EIS (#2682) is available. Call to receive a copy.

Fourmile Hill Geothermal Development Project EIS (Calpine). No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service land in the Klamath and Modoc forests. BLM has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. A summary of the draft EIS is available. Call to receive a copy.

NAME CHANGE! Grande Ronde River Endemic Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation Program. Ore. — The preliminary EA (#3018) is available. Call to receive a copy. See Close of Comment.

NEW! Issues 98 Process. Regionwide — A FYI that summarizes the process and identifies public involvement opportunities will be available in mid-May. See story, Calendar of Events and Close of Comment.

Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement. Idaho — Development of a native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing and release of acclimated smolts to preserve and recover the population. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Northwest Regional Power Facility. Wash. — To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) and a Supplement Analysis is available. Call to receive a copy.

Select Area Fisheries Evaluation. Ore. and Wash. — Placement of net pens in Clifton Channel, Deep River and Steamboat Slough. A revised FONSI is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

South Oregon Coast Reinforcement EIS. Ore. — To reinforce electrical service to the southern coast of Oregon and provide the necessary transmission for Nucor Corp. to built a new steel mill in the Coos Bay/North Bend area. The BLM, Forest Service and Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies. A draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list. See Close of Comment.

Telephone Flats Geothermal Project EIS (CalEnergy). No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service land in the Modoc Forest. BLM has the lead and BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Vegetation Management Program EIS. Regionwide — To develop a vegetation management program that is cost-effective and environmentally sensitive while maintaining a safe and reliable transmission system. The Forest Service and BLM are cooperating agencies. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Programmatic EIS. Wash. — The Bureau of Reclamation has the lead on this project. BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft programmatic EIS is available. To receive a copy, call 1-800-861-5443. See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment. For further information, call Robert Black at (303) 445-2704.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Issues 98 Process: **June 11, 1 - 5 pm**, Doubletree Hotel-Downtown, 322 No. Spokane Falls Dr., Spokane, Wash.; **June 12, 1 - 5 pm**, Radisson Hotel-SeaTac, 17001 Pacific Hwy So., Seattle, Wash.

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project public meetings: **June 2, 1:30 - 3:30 pm and 7 - 9 pm**, Eagle Seelatsee Auditorium, 404 Fort Road, Toppenish, Wash.; **June 3, 1 - 3 pm and 7 - 9 pm**, Doubletree Inn, 1507 No. First St., Yakima, Wash.

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CLOSE OF COMMENT

So. Oregon Coast Reinforcement Project: **May 8**; Issues 98 Process: **June 19**; Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project: Written comments by **July 22** to Robert Black, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225-0007. Special requests to him by **May 15**.

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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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An archive of past *Journals* 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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