



A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

# Journal

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*June 1998*

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## Judi Johansen is new BPA administrator

Judi Johansen will be BPA's new administrator beginning June 8. U.S. Secretary of Energy Federico Peña appointed Johansen to the position. She will be BPA's 12th administrator in BPA's 61 years. Johansen has 16 years of experience in the electric utility business. She was vice president of business development with Avista Energy, a national energy marketing company that is an enterprise of

Washington Water Power Co. Johansen worked at BPA from 1992 to 1996. She began her BPA career as acting director of the fish and wildlife division. She moved to senior policy advisor to the assistant administrator for power sales, and later became vice president for generation supply with executive oversight of power supply, scheduling, trading, short-term sales, and federal and non-federal projects. Previously, Johansen was a partner in the Tacoma, Wash., law firm of Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell. From 1983 to 1986, Johansen was a staff attorney for the Public Power Council.

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### **Issues '98 extended one week**

BPA opened the public comment period for Issues '98 on May 19. BPA is extending the public comment period a week to June 26. (See calendar on back page.) Public meetings are scheduled in June. A Keeping Current is included with this month's Journal to provide you with more information.

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### **BPA adopts "spreading risk" policy for endangered fish**

BPA accepts juvenile migration policies described in the 1998 supplement to the National Marine Fisheries Service's 1995 Biological Opinion for endangered Snake River chinook salmon and steelhead. This year's supplement to the BiOp, among other things, calls for increased spill at federal projects compared to last year. The Independent Scientific Advisory Board recommended spreading the risk in a Feb. 27, 1998, report to the NMFS Implementation Team. In the same report, the ISAB also recommended against using trucks as a means of transporting juvenile fish, citing a lack of information about its effects on salmon and historical indications that truck transport could be detrimental. While the "spread the risk" approach puts less emphasis on transportation than BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation had recommended, it should result in transporting about 50 percent of all juvenile migrants. At the most, maximum transportation would have resulted in barging about 70 percent of all migrants. BPA is supporting this change to reflect the advice of the scientists.

The vast majority of juvenile salmon that are transported around the dams are placed in barges with special holding tanks that constantly circulate water from the river so that the fish can smell and taste the river as they move down through it. Trucks are used only when barges are unavailable or very small numbers of juveniles need to be transported. BPA and the Corps will work to evaluate small-scale in-river transportation alternatives. Under the Endangered Species Act, BPA along with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are designated as action agencies responsible for implementing the operational measures identified in the BiOp working in cooperation with NMFS as well as state and tribal agencies.

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### **BPA continues to invest in renewables**

BPA has two wind and two geothermal projects under construction or consideration. BPA also contributes about \$200,000 per year toward renewables research and development. The four projects are:

**1. Wyoming Wind Project** — BPA issued a record of decision in July 1997 and signed a 20-year power purchase agreement to take 15.3 MW (6.5 aMW) from the 41.4 MW project. BPA will also pay a proportionate share of the project costs. The developer is SeaWest; the project owners are PacifiCorp and EWEB. Commercial operation is scheduled for October 1998. The power cost is estimated at 40 mills (levelized 1997 dollars). Salem Electric has purchased BPA's share of the project output through fiscal year 2001. The project is located in south central Wyoming.

**2. Columbia Wind Farm Project** — BPA is considering whether to proceed with this project near Goldendale, Wash. BPA is helping Conservation and Renewable Energy Systems develop a bid package to select a new project developer in the wake of the previous developer's (FloWind) bankruptcy. A Request for Proposals may be issued soon. The earliest commercial operation would be late 1999 if BPA decides to proceed with this project. (See back page.)

**3. Fourmile Hill Geothermal Project** — Calpine is developing a 49 MW project at Glass Mountain in northern California. BPA is considering purchasing 30 MW of output and a transmission services agreement for interconnection and wheeling. The project is in the final stages of permitting, with a Final EIS expected in July 1998. Commercial operation is expected to begin in 2000 or 2001. (See back page.)

**4. Telephone Flat Geothermal Project** — CalEnergy is developing a 48-MW project at Glass Mountain. BPA is considering the purchase of 30 MW of output and a transmission services agreement for wheeling (and possibly interconnection, if the Fourmile Hill project is not approved). A draft EIS will be issued soon for public comment. Commercial operation is expected to begin in 2000 or 2001.

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### **Gov. Locke appoints NWPPC members**

Washington Governor Gary Locke has appointed Tom Karier of Spokane and Larry Cassidy of Vancouver to represent Washington on the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Karier's term begins July 1, and ends Jan. 15, 2001. Karier is a professor of economics and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Eastern Washington University. He has also taught natural resources courses.

Cassidy assumes his Council duties Oct. 1, and ends Jan. 15, 2002. He is president and owner of Flo-Rite Products Co. of Vancouver, an international distributor of plumbing and hardware products. He served as a member of the Washington State Game Commission from 1973-85, part of that time as chairman. He was president of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, national vice president of Trout Unlimited, and was a member of the National Marine Fisheries Commission under former President Richard Nixon. He currently serves on the John Day Snake River Regional Advisory Committee with the Department of the Interior, and holds membership in several fishery groups.

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### **BPA funding helps weatherize homes**

More low-income people in the Northwest will have energy efficient-homes because BPA is extending a funding program through September 1999. The program was scheduled to end this month. The

extension allows the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana to use about \$4 million from BPA to continue financing low-income weatherization programs. The programs provide funding for making weatherization improvements to homes of low-income families around the four-state region.

A comprehensive review of the Northwest energy system conducted by the four governors in 1996 proposed turning energy conservation responsibilities over to the states and utilities. At the time, advocates for low-income families asked BPA to continue funding the programs to help bridge the gap until the change occurred.

BPA's original grant to the states required that the money be spent in about a year and a half. The states would have implemented a "system benefit charge" that would collect funds from all ratepayers to support conservation and other public benefits programs by that time. Montana is the only state to pass a system benefit charge. The other states have wrestled with the idea but have not yet determined how to charge ratepayers for conservation programs.

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### **Utilities sign up for BPA power**

A year ago, Northwest utilities weren't so sure the region's federal hydropower could be competitive in the newly deregulated wholesale electric industry. Now BPA power is a precious commodity. BPA has sold about 1,300 average megawatts of energy — more than enough energy to serve a city the size of Seattle — in a total of 52 power sales contracts. All but eight contracts are with public utility customers within the region. BPA expects that, on average, the power sales will bring in approximately \$240 million of revenues annually for the years 2002-2006. Nearly 75 percent of BPA's current power sales expire after the year 2001.

The recent sales met an advanced limit agreed to by BPA and the Transition Board, a group created to implement the recommendations of a comprehensive review of the region's electricity system conducted by the four Northwest governors in 1996. Originally, the Transition Board agreement assumed about 800 average megawatts would go outside the region and 500 average megawatts would stay within the region. The final tally essentially reverses that, with 750 average megawatts staying inside the region and 550 average megawatts going outside the region or to power brokers who may sell inside or outside.

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### **BPA begins subscription July 1**

BPA plans to begin the subscription process on July 1. The Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System recommended that BPA conduct the subscription process to offer 5- to 20-year subscriptions for power. It's expected about 6,400 average megawatts will be up for sale. If public preference customers exercise their rights to take their full share, about 2,000 aMW would be left for the residential exchange and for direct service industries. What's left will depend on how much public customers end up buying. The total of 6,400 aMW does not include power that has been set aside for other commitments, such as about 350 aMW of entitlement power that will be going back to Canada, about 500 aMW of old contracts, and the 550 aMW of presubscription purchases outside the region.

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## **BPA funds ocean research**

BPA has awarded a five-year, \$5 million contract to the National Marine Fisheries Service for research to help scientists better understand how ocean conditions and decades-long shifts in climate affect salmon survival. The research also will address how the hydrosystem has changed the Columbia River estuary and plume and how this influences salmon survival. The knowledge gained should help the region's fish and wildlife managers improve timing for hatchery releases. It may help managers make decisions about whether to transport smolts from collector dams or allow them to migrate naturally in-river to time their arrival in the estuary and near-shore ocean when conditions are good for growth. While the umbrella contract is with the National Marine Fisheries Service, most of the work will be conducted by others. Oregon State University and the Oregon Graduate Institute will get the majority of the contract dollars for 1998. In future years others having specific expertise will also participate.

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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. 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. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Columbia Wind Farm #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 draft EIS summary is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Issues 98 Process.** Regionwide — A Keeping Current is available that summarizes the process and identifies public involvement opportunities. Five other fact sheets are also available. Please call the numbers below to request information on: transmission; fish; cost review; PBL markets/inventory/subscription; and risk management. See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment.

**Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement.** Idaho — Development of a native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing 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 COE 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 while maintaining a safe and reliable transmission system. 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 and 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.

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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.; **June 22, 1-5 pm**, BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 Federal Bldg. East, 911 NE 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

So. Oregon Coast Reinforcement Project: **June 1, 4-8 pm**, Douglas High School, 1381 NW Douglas, Winston, Ore.; **June 2, 4-8 pm**, Coquille Community Bldg., 115 No. Birch, Coquille, Ore.

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. Ore. Coast Reinforcement Project: **June 15**

Issues 98 Process: **June 26**

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

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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/>.

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

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**For More Information or To Get Involved:**

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