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A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

# Journal

*February 1999*



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### 1999 rate case update

BPA is leading the region through a series of workshops in February, in preparation for the formal 7(i)

rate process. These workshops (dates are listed in the calendar section on the back page) provide an informal opportunity for participants to understand the technical aspects of the assumptions and models that lead to the numbers used for proposing rates.

We want to keep you informed about the rate case so you can follow the issues once the formal process begins in April. You will find a card enclosed with this month's *Journal*. Return the card if you would like to be included on the rate case mail list. This year, we plan to use the Internet as much as possible and post our materials on BPA's Web site. Please let us know if you would like to receive notification of the availability of issue papers or other technical information via E-mail. We will use electronic notification to tell you when we have posted documents on our [Web site](#).

If electronic notification is not the best way to reach you, please make sure we have your postal address so that we can send you update cards and information.

BPA is assisting four public interest groups — the Renewable Northwest Project, the Northwest Energy Coalition, Save Our Wild Salmon, and the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board — that have indicated their ability to participate in the rate case would be seriously compromised by the license fee required to use a computer model. Participants normally pay \$1,000 to EPIS for access to its Aurora model, which is used to prepare revenue projections. BPA asked the company if the four interest groups could use one copy of the model for a consolidated fee, and EPIS agreed. BPA is loaning the groups a laptop computer powerful enough to run the program for the duration of the rate case.

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#### **Bonneville Environmental Foundation receives new contributions**

In existence for less than a year, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation already has received \$700,000 as a result of a contribution received in mid-January. The Hewlett Foundation of Menlo Park, Calif., donated \$350,000 over the next two years to cover all of the foundation's administrative and marketing costs. The foundation already had come through with approximately \$350,000 in late 1998 in contributions to cover renewable energy development and watershed health improvements in the Northwest. Snohomish Public Utility District No. 1 is negotiating a contract to buy 10 megawatts of certified green power from BPA that would result in additional funding to the foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the environment in the Northwest. The Northwest Energy Coalition, the Renewable Northwest Project and the National Resource Defense Council launched the foundation in June 1998 and agreed to endorse select, environmentally preferred resources. BPA markets the power from these resources to purchasers who agree to pay an environmental premium.

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#### **Update on wind and geothermal projects**

The 41.4-megawatt Wyoming Wind Project is expected to start commercial operation in mid-February. The project is in the final stages of acceptance testing and some needed adjustments will be made to the wind turbines as soon as weather conditions allow. BPA is purchasing a 37 percent share of the output from the project located at the Foote Creek Rim near Arlington, Wyo. PacifiCorp and Eugene Water & Electric Board purchased the wind turbine project under a turnkey development arrangement with SeaWest and Tomen Power Co., the project developers.

The final environmental impact statement for the Fourmile Hill Geothermal Project was issued in October 1998. Calpine Corporation is developing the 49-MW facility, located in the Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County, Calif. BPA is considering a purchase of the project's output. If the project is

approved by the federal and state permitting agencies, it is expected to reach commercial operation by late 2001.

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### **Come to the "Electric Revolution"**

Leaders in the electric utility industry plan to reveal new energy technologies and discuss what they mean to consumers at the "Electric Revolution" symposium on March 18 and 19 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Ore.

New sources of electricity based on efficiencies or renewables will have a direct, immediate impact on electric power and production. These include end-user applications that feed back into new sources of electricity such as distributed generation. Distributed technologies include small-scale combustion turbines, fuel cells and the use of hydrogen, new designs in wind power and solar photovoltaics, and increased efficiency at the point of use.

James Burke, host of the "Connections," "Connections II" and "The Day the World Changed" programs on the Discovery Channel, will speak on "Science, Technology and Culture." Maurice Gunderson, principal, Nth Power Technologies, will speak on "Getting Ready for Your Energy Future." Additional speakers include Lawrence Papay, principal, Distributed Utilities Association; Terry Kraft-Oliver, managing director, Asia-regional office, International Institute for Energy Conservation, Thailand; Dave Jermain, president, Jermain Company; Harry Braun, chairman and CEO, Sterling Energy; Eric Wong, marketing consultant for gas engine products, Caterpillar; and Mark Skowronski, product marketing manager, AlliedSignal. A representative from the Sintef Group (the Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology), a branch of the Norwegian Electric Power Research Institute, will discuss generation planning in a deregulated hydro-thermal power system while integrating renewables. Norway has had a deregulated electricity market since 1991.

On the second day, speakers discussing net metering include Thomas J. Starrs, co-principal, Kelso, Starrs & Associates; Dick Wanderscheid, city of Ashland; and Doug Bechtel, general manager, Orcas Power & Light Cooperative. Several speakers will discuss sources of funding including Bob Barton, CEO, Catalyst Financial Group; John Graham, managing director, CARES/Fannie Mae; Dave Hedberd, regional vice president, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation; and Curtis Framel, regional coordinator, Federal Energy Management Program.

Other invited speakers include Dan Reicher, assistant secretary, DOE; Mark Hatfield, retired U.S. Senator from Oregon; Ralph Cavanagh, senior attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council; Brent Alderfer, Colorado public utility commissioner; Scott Cauchois, California Public Utility Commission; Amory Lovins, director of research, Rocky Mountain Institute; Dave Slawson, president, Sterling Energy; Walt Pollock, senior vice president, Portland General Electric; and Judi Johansen, BPA administrator.

They will discuss burgeoning distributed generation technologies brought by deregulation; implications for the Northwest and the nation; how to plan energy choices wisely, including cost, reliability and environmental benefits; how to find new markets and business opportunities; how to face new expectations and needs from consumers; and where to find the money to finance distributed power and efficiency projects.

Nearly 30 exhibitors will demonstrate fuel cells, solar shingles and other new sources of distributed power.

The symposium co-sponsors are the Bonneville Power Administration and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, an independent non-profit charitable organization. Supporting sponsors are the Northwest Public Power Association and the Public Power Council. To register, contact Cheri Larson by E-mail at [cllarson@bpa.gov](mailto:cllarson@bpa.gov) or call her at (503) 230-3325.

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## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **Status Reports**

#### **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.

#### **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 final EIS and summary are available. Call to receive a copy.

#### **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.

#### **Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Feasibility Project.**

Wash.— To implement various studies and research projects on the feasibility of restoring coho salmon to the mid-Columbia tributaries. The Yakama Indian Nation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are cooperating agencies. A preliminary EA is available. Call to receive a copy. See Close of Comment.

#### **Northwest Regional Power Facility.**

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

#### **Reedsport-Fairview Transmission Project.**

Ore. — To improve reliability and limit maintenance costs on a segment of Reedsport-Fairview No. 1, a 115-kV transmission line. Would either replace a segment of the line with a shorter line in a new location or rebuild the segment where it is now. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

#### **Select Area Fisheries Evaluation.**

Ore. and Wash. — Placement of net pens in Clifton Channel, Deep River and Steamboat Slough. A revised FONSI is available. Call to receive a copy.

#### **South Oregon Coast Reinforcement EIS.**

Ore. — To reinforce electrical service to the southern Oregon coast and provide the necessary transmission for Nucor Corp. to build a new steel mill in the Coos Bay/North Bend area. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies. A draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**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 and summary are available. Call to receive a copy.

**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 final programmatic EIS is available. Call Robert Black, BOR 303-445-2704 to receive a copy.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Technical Rate Case Workshops:**

Feb. 2 — Risk Management. Feb. 9 — Rate Analysis Model. Feb. 10 — Industrial Margin Study (IP/PF link) and Feb. 17 — Revenue Requirements. All workshops will be in the BPA Rates Hearing Room from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Room 223, 911 NE 11th, Portland, Ore.

**Electric Revolution**

March 18 and 19. Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., Portland, Ore., contact Cheri Larson, 503-230-3325.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT**

Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Feasibility Project — Feb. 17

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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:**

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](#).

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