John Hairston named interim BPA administrator and CEO

**Portland, Oregon** – Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette has named John Hairston acting administrator and CEO of the Bonneville Power Administration. During the last five of his 29 years at BPA, Hairston has served alongside the administrator in the senior executive office, including as the agency’s first chief administrative officer from 2015 to 2019 before being selected as chief operating officer last fall. Hairston will begin serving as acting administrator and CEO Sept. 1, following the departure of Administrator Elliot Mainzer.

“John has made a lasting and significant impact on the Bonneville Power Administration over the past 29 years, and I am proud to announce him as the interim Administrator,” said Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette. “BPA is an important provider of reliable, renewable hydroelectric and clean nuclear power to the Pacific Northwest, and John’s commitment to serve BPA will support the Administration’s critical energy mission.”

Hairston brings a unique perspective to the job having served in multiple capacities in BPA’s Power Services, regulatory and compliance organizations and most recently the senior executive office.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to lead BPA as we continue to deliver on our strategic goals and manage the challenges of the evolving energy landscape,” said Hairston. “Through this transition we will continue to seek the right balance of the Northwest’s diverse set of needs and interests that are associated with our operations and the role we play in the region.”

Hairston joined BPA in 1991. He began his career as an economist in the Rates Forecasting and Rate Design organizations and then performed various positions in Energy Efficiency, including the program manager for Peak Load Management. In 2002, Hairston was assigned to implement and manage the BPA Power Services product, Slice. The Slice product accounts for a sizeable
portion of BPA’s annual sales with a portfolio of its largest public customers.

In 2006, Hairston was named BPA’s chief compliance officer, leading the development and implementation of the Agency Compliance and Governance Organization, providing overall coordination and management of systems and processes established to assure agency compliance with regulatory rules and standards. In June 2015, he was selected as BPA’s Chief Administrative Officer where he was responsible for BPA’s Human Resources Service Center; Information Technology; Safety; Security and Continuity of Operations; Supply Chain Services; Workplace Services; and BPA’s Diversity and Inclusion Office. In September 2019, Hairston was named chief operating officer. In this position, he is responsible for Power Services; Transmission Services; Environment, Fish and Wildlife; and Customer Support Services. He also oversees BPA’s Business Transformation Office and plays a critical role in BPA’s sustained focus on disciplined cost-containment and grid modernization.

Hairston holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from The Southern University, a master’s degree in Urban Studies from Portland State University and a Juris Doctorate from the Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law. He also holds the certification of Compliance and Ethics Professional from the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics.

Tom McDonald, executive vice president of Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Equal Employment Opportunity, will serve as acting COO behind Hairston. McDonald has more than 20 years of experience leading and managing complex and highly-regulated compliance and governance programs.

Christopher Frost, Chief Compliance Officer, has been with BPA for 13 years in a number of governance, audit and compliance roles, and will serve on detail as Executive Vice President of Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Equal Employment Opportunity.

About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale, carbon-free hydropower from 31 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. It also markets the output of the region’s only nuclear plant. BPA delivers this power to more than 140 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage power lines and 261 substations, and provides transmission service to more than 300 customers. In all, BPA provides nearly a third of the power generated in the Northwest. To mitigate the impacts of the federal dams, BPA implements a fish and wildlife program that includes working with its partners to make the federal dams safer for fish passage. It also pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain safe, affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest. www.bpa.gov

###