



## Book reveals the drama behind your light switch

On the heels of its 75th anniversary, BPA offers a rare inside look at difficult decisions and turning points in the Northwest's power industry. The new, full-color book tells the little-known stories and behind-the-scenes intrigue of the last 30 years, including:

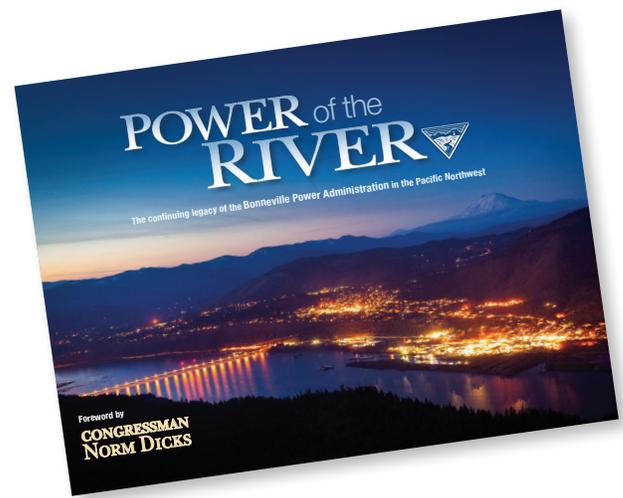
- How the fractious region pulled together through conservation to weather the West Coast power crisis that nearly bankrupted BPA and other utilities.
- BPA Administrator Peter T. Johnson's emotionally charged encounter with angry construction workers who would lose their jobs when he canceled BPA financing of new nuclear plants.
- How one tree and a cascade of glitches in BPA's system blacked out much of the western United States.

The 300-page book, "Power of the River," tracks the Northwest's efforts since 1980 — roughly when an earlier book left off — to equitably share low-cost hydroelectric power from the Columbia River while responding to evolving environmental values and expanding the regional power grid.

"The book demonstrates how BPA successfully evolved, sometimes in the face of crisis, to become an even more durable and resilient organization," said Bill Drummond, BPA administrator. "I hope through this wealth of stories, we can motivate people to embrace new approaches and thereby find their own place in history."

Filled with spectacular photographs, it tells the stories vividly through the lens of BPA, the federal power marketing agency that sells and transmits hydropower from federal dams on the Columbia and its tributaries.

"If you wonder how electricity could be interesting, take a look at this book," said Michael Milstein of BPA, who oversaw the book's production. "The Northwest enjoys some of the cleanest, lowest-cost electricity in the country, but that makes it so valuable that plenty of drama and controversy surrounds it."



The book is available in a PDF format on BPA's website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/Book](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/Book). Paper copies of the book can be purchased for \$10 a piece. Go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/PurchaseBook](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/PurchaseBook) to submit an electronic payment. Under purpose of payment, select "other," and then in the "description" field, enter "BPA book," your mailing address and the number of books you want. For "payment method," enter your credit card or checking account information (paper checks will not be accepted).

## Water supply forecast all about timing

Meteorologists have looked into the future and have seen "La Nada." That is, the ocean is currently hovering around neutral. Neither El Niño nor La Niña — the two weather phenomena that heavily influence the Northwest — are present.

That leaves the anticipated precipitation for the Northwest without a general tendency. Reflecting that absence, at the end of February, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center forecast equal chances of wetter and drier conditions for the next three months in the majority of the Columbia Basin.

BPA meteorologist Chris Karafotias echoed that perspective when he looked out to the April through



June period: “There’s really no strong water temperature signal one way or the other in the tropical Pacific.”

The important part of the precipitation forecast for those interested in power generation is how the rain and snow translate into flows in the Columbia River system. The forecast helps system operators plan for potential energy oversupply conditions in spring and early summer and for potential low water in August, when it’s needed to support fish passage and meet higher power use due to hot weather.

As of March 17, the January–July Columbia River volume forecast from the River Forecast Center was 90.6 million acre-feet as measured at The Dalles Dam — that’s 89 percent of average. If the water supply continues in the neighborhood of 90 percent, it could suggest that oversupply will be less of a problem than it has been in springs past, but it could also suggest that water for fish and generation could be in short supply in August, depending heavily on exactly how the runoff proceeds.

But previous performance is no predictor of future performance. The forecast on March 12, 2012, for example, was 96 percent of average. The year ended with a final July figure of 121 percent of average. The most unusual aspect of the year was that the snowpack, which usually peaks around April 1, actually increased in April and early May, followed by near-record rainfall in British Columbia, western Montana and northern Idaho in June.

The multiple water supply scenarios that could play out between now and September, most importantly how quickly or slowly the snow melts and becomes fuel for the hydro system, will keep everyone involved on their toes for the foreseeable future.

## Shaping the future of the Columbia River Treaty

The reliable power Northwest residents depend on and their relative safety from devastating flooding is, in part, due to a historic treaty between the United States and Canada. Signed nearly 50 years ago, the Columbia River Treaty has been called the most successful international water treaty in the world. Its architects designed the agreement to increase water storage for power and flood control. Under the Treaty, Canada constructed three large dams in the upper Columbia during the 1960s and ’70s, and the U.S. built one. The four dams doubled the water storage in the Columbia River Basin, leading to expanded flood protection and positive economic impacts for both countries over the past five decades.

But now, after years of successful Treaty coordination with Canada, U.S. government officials are analyzing

data to determine if they should recommend that the agreement be maintained, modified or terminated. Time is critical in the decision-making process, because in September 2014, the countries will have their first opportunity to end the Treaty in 2024. It’s required they give 10 years’ written notice before dissolving the agreement.

In preparation for the upcoming deadline, members of what’s known as the Sovereign Review Team have been meeting monthly for two and half years to reach consensus on what they believe should happen to the international agreement. The SRT is made up of 11 federal agencies, 15 Native American tribes and the representatives of four Northwest states. The diverse group has many competing interests that require much discussion and analysis on the Treaty’s future.

“The world is a different place than it was in 1964,” says Steve Oliver, BPA’s vice president of Generation Asset Management. “Power and flood control are not the only relevant issues when determining how to best manage the resources of the Columbia River. The challenge in the Treaty review is to adequately consider the ecosystem, environmental, irrigation, navigation and other issues that were not addressed in the original Treaty.”

Together, the BPA administrator and the Northwest Division engineer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are known in the Treaty process as the U.S. Entity. The two leaders are tasked with making the SRT’s final recommendation on the Treaty to the U.S. State Department by December 2013. The State Department would like the U.S. Entity’s recommendation to reflect the greatest regional consensus possible, not only among SRT members but also with other Northwest stakeholders, such as BPA power customers.

To help prioritize issues of concern, the SRT established three stages of analysis. The first two phases are complete. The next step is to take what’s been learned and create a set of alternatives to capture the essential needs of the region. The U.S. Entity will host a series of open houses around the region in April and May to discuss the results of the latest round of modeling, as well as seek thoughts and ideas for the last phase of modeling.

For more information, including details about the upcoming open houses, go to [www.crt2014-2024review.gov](http://www.crt2014-2024review.gov).

## BPA seeks input on transmission projects

BPA will hold public meetings and seek comments on two proposed transmission projects in early April. The

agency is beginning an environmental analysis for the Lane-Wendson transmission line rebuild in Lane County, Ore, and BPA recently released a draft environmental impact statement for the Hooper-Springs project in Caribou County, Idaho.

The 115-kV Lane-Wendson wood-pole line was built in 1948. The poles, wires and associated parts are near the end of their life span. The proposed rebuild is part of BPA's pledge to maintain reliable electric service and reduce potential safety risks to the public and work crews. BPA preserves the value of its transmission system by rebuilding aging lines — many of which are now more than half a century old — when needed.

"The public plays a vital role in helping us make well-informed decisions," said project manager Richard Heredia. "We look forward to talking to local residents about potential impacts to natural and human resources, such as native plants and wildlife, land use and transportation."

At the public meetings, community members can ask questions, voice concerns and share local knowledge about potential impacts the environmental assessment

should address. Comments will help guide BPA's analysis. Findings from the analysis determine whether the project could cause significant environmental impacts.

The Hooper-Springs Transmission Project is needed to improve system reliability and support increasing energy use in the winter and in southeast Idaho and northwestern Wyoming. At the meeting, BPA will inform the public and accept comments on the draft environmental impact statement, which describes the proposed project and the expected environmental effects.

"It's critically important that local residents and all parties interested in this proposed project attend this meeting," said project manager Erich Orth. "We carefully consider each comment, which helps BPA refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to build the project. Our goal is to make the best-informed decision possible."

See the Public Involvement portion of the Journal for details on the public meetings and comment periods. For more project information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings) or [www.bpa.gov/goto/LaneWendson](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/LaneWendson).

## Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

### AGENCY PROJECTS

#### Quarterly Business Review [Regionwide]

BPA will hold its Quarterly Business Review on April 30. These meetings focus on BPA's finances with a review of current fiscal year actual financial results compared to financial forecasts, such as the start-of-year target, as well as other current agency topics. BPA will also report on how actual spending compares to rate case assumptions. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/QBR](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/QBR). [SEE CALENDAR]

#### Oversupply Management Protocol [Regionwide]

After considering comments received on proposed revisions to Attachment P, the Oversupply Management Protocol section of the BPA Open Access Transmission Tariff, BPA refiled the tariff attachment with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The revisions are based on FERC's direction, BPA's experience implementing the protocol and stakeholder feedback. For information, including an estimate of the potential for oversupply in 2013, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/oversupply](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/oversupply).

#### BP-14 and OS-14 Rate Cases [Regionwide]

BPA is holding two rate proceedings to set rates for the 2014–2015 fiscal years. Power and transmission rates will be set in the BP-14 docket. BPA accepted comments on the BP-14 rate case through Feb. 15. The rate proceeding will culminate in the agency filing final

rate proposals and an administrator's ROD with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in late July 2013. BPA will request approval for the rates to be effective Oct. 1, 2013. A separate docket, OS-14, proposes rates to recover costs BPA incurs under its Oversupply Management Protocol. According to a revised schedule, which parties agreed to in early March, BPA will accept comments through May 22. The agency will issue a final ROD on Aug. 28 and then submit the cost allocation methodology to FERC for approval. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase).

### POWER

#### 2013 Resource Program/2012 Needs Assessment workshop [Regionwide]

BPA will host a workshop in late April (date to be determined) to discuss the 2013 Resource Program and 2012 Needs Assessment. The 2013 Resource Program details how BPA intends to address potential power supply obligation needs, based on the Needs Assessment in the 2012 White Book. The 2012 White Book analyzes BPA's load and resource conditions for sales and purchases. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/power/P/ResourceProgram/Index.shtml](http://www.bpa.gov/power/P/ResourceProgram/Index.shtml). BPA will update the event calendar at [www.bpa.gov/goto/calendar](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/calendar) when the meeting is scheduled.

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## FISH AND WILDLIFE

### Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program [Umatilla County, Ore.]

BPA will host public scoping meetings in April on the proposed project to fund the construction and operation of a spring chinook hatchery near Milton-Freewater, Ore. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation would own and operate the hatchery if BPA decides to build it. BPA will prepare an EIS. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/WallaWallaHatchery](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/WallaWallaHatchery). [SEE CALENDAR]

### Kootenai River Native Fish Aquaculture Program [Boundary County, Idaho]

BPA released a preliminary EA in February and accepted comments through March 18. The agency is now reviewing the comments and determining how to proceed. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/kootenaiaquaculture](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/kootenaiaquaculture).

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## TRANSMISSION

### Hooper Springs Transmission Line Construction Project [Caribou County, Idaho]

BPA published a draft EIS in March and will accept comments through April 22. The project team will host a public meeting in Soda Springs, Idaho, on April 3 to introduce the draft EIS, listen to stakeholder feedback and seek public comment. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings). [SEE CALENDAR]

### Lane-Wendson Line Rebuild [Lane County, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 41-mile 115-kV Lane-Wendson No. 1 transmission line between Eugene and Florence, Ore. BPA will host public scoping meetings this month and accept comments through April 22. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/LaneWendson](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/LaneWendson). [SEE CALENDAR]

### I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project [Cowlitz and Clark counties, Wash., and Multnomah County, Ore.]

The comment period on the draft EIS closed March 25. All comments received will be posted on the project website. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5) or call 800-230-6593.

### Precedent Transmission Service Agreement Reform [Regionwide]

In early March, BPA announced its decision to approve the three existing customer requests for PTSA modification or withdrawal. Customer comments during a March 8 conference call supported the decision. Concluding the process on PTSA reform allows BPA to move forward with a closely related project, reforming the Network Open Season process. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/NOS](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/NOS).

### BPA Commercial Expansion Program and Generation Interconnection Reform [Regionwide]

At a meeting on March 20, BPA updated customers and interested parties about initial plans for starting BCEP during 2013. BCEP is the successor to BPA's Network Open Season process. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/NOS](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/NOS).

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on other projects under environmental review is available at [www.bpa.gov/goto/NEPA](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/NEPA).

For information about the National Environmental Policy Act in general, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/environmentalplanning](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/environmentalplanning).

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view BPA's public involvement calendar, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/calendar](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/calendar). For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, call toll free 800-622-4519.

### Lane-Wendson Line Rebuild public scoping meetings

- **April 2**, 5 to 7 p.m., Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., Florence, Ore.
- **April 3**, 5 to 7 p.m., Veneta Elementary School, 88131 Territorial Rd., Veneta, Ore.

### Hooper Springs Transmission Line Construction Project public meeting

- **April 3**, 5 to 8 p.m., Soda Springs High School, 300 N. First St., Soda Springs, Idaho

### Walla Walla Basin Spring Chinook Hatchery Program

- **April 16**, 6 to 8 p.m., Milton-Freewater Community Building, 109 N.E. 5th, Milton-Freewater, Ore.
- **April 17**, 6 to 8 p.m., Dayton Elementary School, 302 E. Park, Dayton, Wash.

### Quarterly Business Review

- **April 30**, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

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## CLOSE OF COMMENT

Submit comments to [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

- **April 22**, Hooper Springs Transmission Construction Project
- **April 22**, Lane-Wendson Line Rebuild
- **May 22**, Oversupply Rate Case (OS-14)

The Journal is a monthly publication of the Bonneville Power Administration. If you have questions or comments, or you want to be added to the mailing list for any project, call toll free (800) 622-4519.

To order copies of documents, call: (800) 622-4520 or (503) 230-7334. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428. E-mail address: [comment@BPA.gov](mailto:comment@BPA.gov). BPA home page: [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov). For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/nepadocs.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx). Process Abbreviations: EA-Environmental Assessment, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, ESA-Endangered Species Act, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision.

