



Journal

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Treaty recommendation at State Department

The U.S. Entity sent a final regional recommendation concerning the future of the Columbia River Treaty to the U.S. Department of State in December. The State Department will use it to begin a federal policy review process and determine whether to proceed with a Treaty modernization effort with Canada.

Under the original Treaty, either Canada or the United States may unilaterally terminate most Treaty provisions as early as September 2024, with a minimum of 10 years' notice.

"After three years of collaboration with a wide variety of interests in the region, we believe we are recommending a win-win approach to the future of the Columbia River Treaty that will be broadly supported by the people of the Pacific Northwest," said Elliot Mainzer, BPA acting administrator and chair of the U.S. Entity.

The U.S. Entity, consisting of the BPA administrator and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division engineer, is charged with formulating and carrying out the operating arrangements to implement the Treaty.

The final recommendation was developed by the U.S. Entity in collaboration and consultation with the region's four states, federally recognized tribes and a variety of stakeholders through an extensive, multiyear process known as the Columbia River Treaty Review.

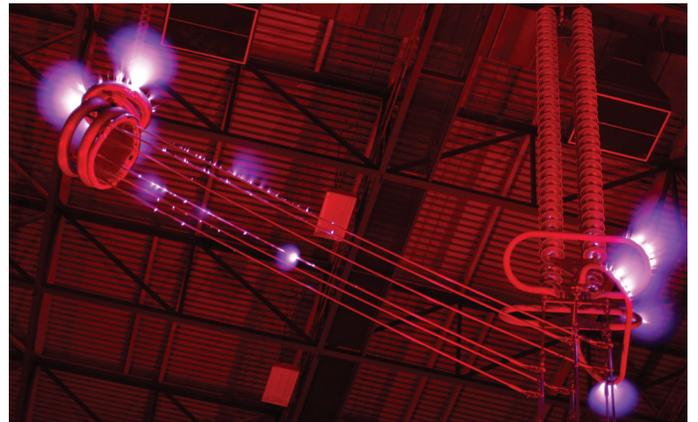
"We appreciate the extensive involvement and input of the region in developing a recommendation that reflects the region's many important interests for consideration by the State Department and the Administration," said Brig. Gen. John Kem, commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division and U.S. Entity member.

The final recommendation submits that the Pacific Northwest and the nation would benefit from modernization of the Treaty post-2024. It begins by identifying regional goals for the future of the Treaty and includes general principles underlying the recommendation, followed by more specific recommendations related to several Treaty elements. It also identifies matters related to possible post-2024 Treaty implementation for consideration through domestic processes.

Now that the final recommendation has been delivered to the Department of State, the U.S. government will formally take up the question of the Columbia River Treaty. That process will be a federal interagency review under the general direction of the National Security Council on behalf of the president. The Department of State has been designated as the agency to coordinate and oversee this process on behalf of the National Security Council.

The final recommendation is available at www.crt2014-2024review.gov.

Lightning strikes in high-voltage lab



BPA studies transmission phenomena, such as corona, in its high-voltage lab. Corona, seen here, is an electrical discharge that can occur on power lines, creating noise and light and interfering with radio and television signals.

Employees of BPA's high-voltage lab got a positive jolt in December when a feature article, "High-voltage BPA lab a rare asset," was published in Vancouver, Washington's daily newspaper, The Columbian. The Associated Press picked up the story, and it soon appeared across the country.

The article spotlights the lab's unique capabilities — including creating lightning on demand — and its critical role in keeping the electric grid safe and reliable.



In addition to testing high-powered equipment and materials, the lab serves as an education outlet for the region. Each year, BPA conducts tours of the facility for hundreds of visitors, ranging from local Girl Scouts to electric industry colleagues from overseas.

Platts award recognizes synchrophasor success



Larry Bekkedahl, senior vice president of Transmission Services, accepting the Grid Optimization award at the Platts Global Energy Awards ceremony on Dec. 12 in New York.

For installing the most sophisticated synchrophasor network in North America, BPA collected its first Platts Global Energy Award, presented in New York City on Dec. 12. Larry Bekkedahl, senior vice president of Transmission Services, accepted the award on BPA's behalf.

"It's a tremendous day for Bonneville," said Bekkedahl. "And I'm so proud of our team that worked hard for so many years to make this happen. This is definitely a fall-on-your-knees moment."

A panel of judges selected this year's winners — five industry executives and 15 companies — from more than 200 nominations. BPA's synchrophasor program was nominated in the Industry Leadership Award category for Grid Optimization. There were nine other finalists for the award.

In 2013, BPA completed the installation of its synchrophasor network, part of a three-year, \$30 million investment. The network includes 126 phasor measurement units at substations and large wind generation sites throughout the Northwest. PMUs are shoe-box-sized devices that transmit precise power system readings (current, frequency and voltage) 60 times a second over a high-speed network to BPA's control centers, providing BPA's grid operators an unprecedented view of the power system's dynamic

state. BPA's synchrophasor network is the only one in North America designed to take split-second control actions when it detects a problem on the grid.

Led by its Technology Innovation Office, BPA also deployed sophisticated data management techniques to handle the tidal wave of real-time data. The agency is now collecting 137,000 measurements from across the grid every second. In addition, BPA developed an application engine to analyze the data in real time and alert dispatchers when the power system is at risk. Eventually, a wide-area response-based control scheme will use PMU measurements to assess the system and take necessary actions at substations within less than one second of an initiating disturbance.

BPA is the largest contributor to the Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program, in which 19 utilities have partnered with the Department of Energy to provide real-time visibility of the entire western power system, which covers 14 states, two Canadian provinces and a portion of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. Through a dedicated, secure network provided by WISP, BPA is sharing synchrophasor data with 10 utilities, furthering the understanding of the status and condition of the interconnection well beyond the agency's borders.

Sustainability report outlines savings

BPA's 2013 sustainability report, released in December, outlines the agency's sustainability program accomplishments. It features a scorecard that compares fuel, water, waste and heating consumption over the past four years.

Many of the sustainability initiatives have resulted in financial savings that will help keep power rates low for BPA customers. In 2013, the agency saved more than \$639,000, compared to 2012, when our sustainability programs saved \$494,000. The cost of office supplies alone was reduced by \$288,000 in 2013, due in part to a 14 percent reduction in the consumption of paper and printer toner. These savings can be attributed to continued employee education and increased awareness.

The report also documents the advancement of the sustainability program, including establishment of several new sustainability policies and cross-organizational efforts that will help BPA continue to see increased savings. The report is available at www.bpa.gov/news/pubs/Pages/Sustainability.aspx.

Partnerships enable conservation accomplishments

An eclectic mix of utilities, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and Northwest Native American tribes gathered last week to mark several recent land acquisitions in the Willamette River Basin and celebrate the landmark

agreement that continues to enable effective partnership between BPA, the state of Oregon and others.

Against the backdrop of the recently purchased 307-acre Minto Island, adjacent to downtown Salem, Ore., the group received a progress report on the Willamette Wildlife Agreement.

Signed in 2010 between BPA and Oregon, the Willamette Wildlife Agreement clearly established how the federal marketer of energy would mitigate for hydropower projects along the Willamette River and its tributaries.

Recognizing nearly 10,000 acres of land acquisitions that had already been or were in the process of being completed in the Willamette River Basin, the agreement lays out funding for 15 years with a goal of an additional 16,880 acres of mitigation. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife develops and certifies a list of potential acquisitions for the agreement.

In the past two years, ODFW and BPA have protected more than 3,000 acres, and another 2,000 acres is planned in the coming year.

Lands acquired under the agreement are permanently preserved for the benefit of wildlife and fish species. And often the acquisitions become sites for future restoration work and public spaces for wildlife viewing and education.

At Minto Island, for instance, Salem is developing plans to continue enhancing the land's conservation values for wetland and riparian habitat, bottomland hardwood forests and upland meadows. The city also plans to begin construction of a permanent trail that connects to the Minto-Brown Island Park trail network and a footbridge that will connect Minto Island to Riverfront Park near downtown.

"This project is a perfect example of how collaboration weaves throughout the community," said Anna Peterson, mayor of Salem. "It takes more than one city, one state agency or one department. This project would not have been possible without support throughout the community."

One of the integral components to the Willamette Wildlife Agreement is the security of guaranteed funding for the duration of the agreement.

"All the good intent in the world won't plant a single tree, reconnect floodplain to a river channel or complete a conservation real estate transaction. A program of this sort takes money," Bodi said. "This program doesn't get any taxpayer money or congressional appropriations. BPA's electricity ratepayers provide this funding for the betterment of our region's ecological and economic health and quality of life."

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Integrated Program Review [Regionwide]

BPA will begin its 2014 Integrated Program Review process, including the 2014 Capital Investment Review, for the fiscal year 2016–2017 rate period. The IPR is a public discussion of the agency's proposed expense and capital costs that will be reflected in BPA's 2016 rate proposal. BPA will hold an introductory meeting on Jan. 8 to discuss current regional issues and strategic drivers influencing its program spending. Additional information can be found in the invitation letter at www.bpa.gov/goto/IPR. **SEE CALENDAR**

Capital Investment Review [Regionwide]

BPA will host a CIR kickoff in February. The CIR is designed to provide interested parties an opportunity to review and comment on BPA's long-term capital forecasts and draft asset strategies. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CIR.

Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review [Regionwide]

The U.S. Entity completed its work on the final regional recommendation and submitted it to the U.S. Department of State on Dec. 13. The constructive involvement of the region's sovereign states, federally

recognized tribes and hundreds of stakeholders helped the Entity reach this important milestone. To see the final recommendation, cover letter and a short summary of the next steps in the Treaty review process, go to www.crt2014-2024review.gov. For more information, email U.S. Entity staff at treatyreview@bpa.gov, or call BPA at 800-622-4519 or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 503-808-4510.

OS-14 Rate Case [Regionwide]

In the OS-14 rate case, BPA will propose rates to recover the costs incurred under the Oversupply Management Protocol. The draft ROD is scheduled to be issued on Feb. 13. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase.

TRANSMISSION

Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild [Grant and Lincoln counties, Wash.]

BPA is accepting comments and holding two open-house meetings in January on the proposal to rebuild nearly 28 miles of the Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1 115-kV transmission line between the cities of Coulee Dam and Creston, Wash. A draft environmental assessment

describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate them. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild. **SEE CALENDAR**

Keeler-Tillamook Transmission Line Rebuild [Washington and Tillamook counties, Ore.]

BPA released a draft environmental assessment on the proposed rebuild of the Keeler-Forest Grove and Forest Grove-Tillamook 115-kV transmission lines between Hillsboro and Tillamook, Ore. BPA will host a public meeting on Jan. 11 to discuss the project and answer questions. Based on the analysis in the EA and comments received in 2013, BPA will prepare either a finding of no significant impact and decide whether to proceed with the project, or an environmental impact statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/keelertillamook.

SEE CALENDAR

Brush Canyon Wind Facility Interconnection [Sherman County, Ore.]

BPA is accepting comments on a proposal to interconnect 299 megawatts of wind power to Buckley Substation, near Grass Valley, Ore., from a facility proposed by E.ON Climate and Renewables North America. BPA would rebuild Buckley Substation near or immediately adjacent to the existing substation to take advantage of existing communications equipment. Some elements of the existing substation, such as the control house, could remain intact. BPA does not plan to purchase any power from the Brush Canyon Facility. BPA is reviewing the potential environmental impacts of the interconnection. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/BrushCanyonWind.

Pacific Direct Current Intertie Upgrade Project [Lake, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes and Wasco counties, Ore.]

BPA's primary contractor, ABB, started preparatory work at Celilo Substation in fall 2013. The project includes proposed upgrades on the DC transmission line from the substation south to the Oregon-Nevada border. BPA expects to complete work in late January on the draft Environmental Assessment addressing the portion of the project to upgrade the DC line. At that time, BPA will release the draft EA for public comment and conduct at least one Web meeting for project stakeholders to share input and feedback. The final EA is expected to be complete in May. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIUpgrade.

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

BPA sent a project newsletter in December 2013 about field work being conducted. The information will help BPA determine potential impacts from the project and ways to reduce or avoid them. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5 or call 800-230-6593.

Environment, Fish and Wildlife

Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project [Clatsop County, Ore.]

BPA is accepting comments and hosting a scoping meeting in January to solicit input on the proposed Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project. The project involves modifying an existing levee that would inundate historic tidal wetlands, create a network of tidal channels and restore native vegetation on 221 acres near Astoria, Ore.

The project is part of an effort to enhance and restore estuary habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead, provide habitat for wildlife and help mitigate for the impacts of the construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/WallooskeeYoungs. **SEE CALENDAR**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on other projects under environmental review is available at www.bpa.gov/goto/NEPA.

For information about the National Environmental Policy Act in general, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/environmentalplanning.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Submit comments to www.bpa.gov/comment.

Jan. 15 – Brush Canyon Wind Facility Interconnection Project

Jan. 27 – Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project

Feb. 3 – Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild public meetings:

- **Jan. 7**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Coulee Dam Town Hall
300 Lincoln Ave.
Coulee Dam, Wash.
- **Jan. 8**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Wilbur Community Center
5 S.W. Railroad Ave.
Wilbur, Wash.

Building the Framework for the IPR

- **Jan. 8**, 2 to 5 p.m.
BPA's Rates Hearing Room
1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200
Portland, Ore.

Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project

- **Jan. 14**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Nehalem Room
Oregon Department of Forestry
92219 Highway 202
Astoria, Ore.

Keeler-Tillamook Line Rebuild Project

- **Jan 11**, 1 to 3 p.m.
David Douglas Room
World Forestry Center
4033 S.W. Canyon Road
Portland, Ore.

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

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. Email address: comment@bpa.gov. BPA home page: 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. 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.

