Journal

April 2014

Mainzer firms up executive team

A week after being sworn in as administrator, Elliot Mainzer strengthened his leadership team by selecting Greg Delwiche to serve as BPA's deputy administrator and Claudia Andrews to serve as chief operating officer.

"I am extremely pleased and proud to announce the permanent appointments of Greg and Claudia," Mainzer said. "They both bring tremendous experience and dedication to BPA, great personal integrity and interpersonal skills, and the respect and admiration of everyone who has had the pleasure of working with them. I can't think of two better people to join me in the front office, and I am honored that they have agreed to serve by my side."

Delwiche had served as acting deputy administrator since November 2013. He previously served as BPA's senior vice president for Power Services from June 2010 to November 2013. Andrews was appointed BPA's acting chief operating officer in July 2013. She previously served as BPA's executive vice president and chief financial officer.

A week later, Mainzer further solidified the BPA leadership team by selecting Mark Gendron as senior vice president of Power Services and Cathy Ehli as executive vice president of Corporate Strategy. Both had been serving in those roles in an acting capacity.

"Mark and Cathy both have a wealth of executive-level electric utility experience," Mainzer said. "Their industry knowledge and background in customer service will be a substantial benefit to BPA and the Northwest."

BPA offers education grants

BPA is offering $20,000 in science and energy education grants to nonprofit organizations, schools and others in support of work to educate students in kindergarten through 12th grade about the energy systems of the Pacific Northwest.

Compass Academy students conducted water quality testing in Idaho's Rainey Creek to determine if it was healthy habitat for Idaho's state fish, the cutthroat trout. (Turns out, it was!)

The goal of the program is to advance students' understanding, awareness and interest in the issues and science involved in energy generation and transmission in the region.

Funded projects could focus on hydroelectricity, wind and other sources of electric power, methods of conserving electricity, studies of energy and environment, or programs on engineering and technology skills relating to energy.

"Science, technology, engineering and math education is absolutely vital to the energy industry in the Northwest, and this program represents an investment in future innovators, leaders and workforce in that industry," said Greg Delwiche, BPA deputy administrator.

A total of $20,000 will be awarded. BPA anticipates making five to 10 grants ranging from $500 to $5,000.

The Science and Energy Education grants program, which is one facet of a much larger education outreach program by BPA, is designed to extend the reach of BPA's education efforts by supporting teachers and nonprofits working locally to advance energy education.

Funding can be awarded to school districts, government agencies and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. The recipients must be from, and funding must be used in, BPA's service territory in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and parts of Montana, Nevada and Wyoming.

Applications for project funding are due May 9, and funding will be awarded in June for projects taking place over the 2014–2015 school year. For terms and instructions on completing a science and energy education grant proposal, go to *bpa.gov/goto/EducationGrants*.

BPA's education program provides free presentations and information to K-12 schools in our region to help students achieve energy literacy, and to support science, technology, engineering and math education. For information, go to *bpa.gov/goto/Education*.

Trespassers cost ratepayers money, threaten safety

An uptick in trespassing and illegal activity on the right-of-way below a BPA high-voltage power line has led to BPA installing a fence and additional "No Trespassing" signs to protect the area from further damage. Northwest ratepayers will absorb the costs in electric rates, and BPA is offering a reward of up to $25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

The repeated incidents occurred near Southeast 164th Place and 168th Avenue Southeast in Covington, Wash. Trespassers have cut down trees, built fires and used all-terrain vehicles on the property. These activities jeopardize the safety of trespassers, BPA personnel and power customers in the area.

Cutting down trees near transmission equipment can cause them to fall on power lines, creating the possibility of widespread outages and immediate danger to people near the lines. Fires can create heavy smoke that can cause power to arc from the line to the ground, threatening to take the line out of service and creating the potential for serious injury or even death for anyone near the line. All-terrain vehicle use can damage access roads, which in turn jeopardizes the safety of BPA linemen who perform routine and emergency maintenance on the high-voltage lines.

"These trespassers are endangering their lives and the safety of our employees," said Kevin West, BPA physical security specialist. "The culprits are not only damaging the electrical infrastructure that keeps our lights on, but they're also forcing electric ratepayers to cover the costs of this kind of senseless damage and activity."

Through its Crime Witness Program, BPA offers up to $25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals committing crimes against BPA facilities and infrastructure. Anyone having information is asked to call BPA's confidential and toll-free Crime Witness hotline at 800-437-2744. If you see activities such as those mentioned above, residents and others are encouraged to call 911 to help local law enforcement catch perpetrators in the act.

"We're hoping that this information will help jog the memory of someone who may know about this activity," West said. "Sometimes even small details can help law enforcement officials make significant investigative progress."

For more on BPA's Crime Witness Program, go to *bpa.gov/goto/CrimeWitness*.

Seeing the big picture with GIS

BPA uses Geographic Information Systems to support its environmental stewardship and compliance with laws and regulations. Specifically, GIS maps help BPA's environmental compliance staff clearly visualize and explain complex proposals, such as those for transmission construction or fish and wildlife habitat projects, enhancing project management and engagement with stakeholders.

"GIS puts a large amount of relevant and detailed data into a spatial format," says Stacy Mason from BPA's Environment, Fish and Wildlife division. "This helps us see how various considerations play out on a map of a project site, instead of on a spreadsheet. This kind of information display makes the data easy to understand, so it helps with decisions and is great for public meetings."

Mason works in the Environmental Planning and Analysis group, which helps ensure that the agency is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and a host of other federal environmental laws and regulations. Many of BPA's actions — such as building transmission lines or funding habitat projects — require this type of environmental compliance, complete with public processes.

By layering information about environmentally sensitive areas, habitat, defined land uses, wetlands, land ownership, and even the costs of various alternatives, GIS experts can create a map that shows "hot spots" that might need special mitigation or should be avoided entirely. Some maps even contain information about endangered species and cultural resources, which is kept confidential to ensure the locations remain undisclosed to all but those who need to know.

These visuals help incredibly complex issues become much clearer. "We include GIS maps in our Environmental Impact Statements and other NEPA documents to show our care and compliance," adds Mason, who serves as

BPA's NEPA compliance officer. "GIS helps us collaborate with stakeholders to make the best decisions for people and the environment, and then document our efforts for the record."

BPA has historically used printed GIS maps at public meetings and other venues, but has recently found that electronic, interactive maps further enhance stakeholders' understanding of a proposal's impact to their particular area of interest.

For public meetings on the agency's proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement transmission project, BPA brought in computers. Stakeholders were able to sit down with project managers, conduct a search on the GIS map for their parcel of property or resource, and zoom in to see how the various proposed alternatives would affect them.

"The interactive map for the I-5 project was one of the most widely used tools we have ever implemented," says Nancy Wittpenn, environmental lead for the project. "The proposed transmission alternative routes and access roads were extensive and complex, and spanned hundreds of miles. The interactive GIS map helped BPA communicate much more clearly."

How does BPA move a transformer?

Very carefully.

In the world of work projects and deliverables, the B phase transformer at Custer Substation is a category-buster. For one thing, it's almost three stories high.

"You could fit a couple elephants in there for sure," says Rick Wiren, foreman II of BPA's rigging team.

Actually, at 475,000 pounds, or more than 237 tons when fully "dressed" with insulating mineral oil, the transformer outweighs a herd of 32 average elephants.

A 500-kilovolt transformer is the single most valuable piece of equipment in BPA's transmission system. It plays a starring role in transferring power between the high voltage of the region's bulk electrical grid to the lower voltages required by utility customers. Custer Substation, in Ferndale, Wash., helps to serve BPA's last direct industrial customer, Alcoa's Intalco aluminum plant, as well as supporting the flow of power on the Northern Intertie to Canada. Built to order, it would require millions of dollars, as well as months or years to replace. So it pays for BPA to take good care of the transformers already in its inventory.

As a moving object, the middle transformer in bank one at Custer represents a difficult combination: massive yet fragile.

Fortunately, BPA's human toolkit contains a seven-man championship-caliber team: the Bonneville rigging crew. The art of rigging "goes all the way back to moving those giant stones to build the pyramids of Egypt," says Wiren.

With BPA now engaged in a phase separation program, the rigging crew's phone will keep ringing in 2014. Phase separation means establishing larger buffer zones between transformers, many of which were originally positioned less than 25 feet apart. More than a half dozen of the BPA mammoths are slated to be moved this year, helping the agency comply with standards to increase safety and reliability.

BPA's rigging team moves a massive transformer at Custer Substation. To read more or watch a video, go to bpa.gov/news/newsroom/Pages/How-does-BPA-move-a-transformer-Verrrrrrrry-carefully.aspx

Of course, a project as significant as a transformer move depends on the skills and teamwork of many at BPA. Months before the riggers arrived, multiple teams in Transmission Services turned their attention to setting the wheels in motion for the safe, swift and smooth transition that would see the relocated transformer back in service in six weeks.

To see how they did it, go to *bpa.gov/goto/news,* and search "move a transformer."

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

OS-14 Rate Case [Regionwide]

BPA released its final record of decision March 27. Consistent with the draft ROD, BPA will allocate Oversupply Management Protocol costs only to generators within its balancing authority area, proportional to each generator's scheduled use of the transmission system during oversupply events. For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase.*

Capital Investment Review [Regionwide]

BPA is accepting comments through April 11 on draft asset strategies, proposed capital forecasts and project prioritization. For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/goto/CIR.*

POWER

Energy Efficiency Post-2011 Policy Review [Regionwide]

The next regional meeting will be May 8 in Kennewick, Wash. BPA is conducting a public process to review and consider improvements to the BPA energy efficiency policy framework and associated implementation elements that were put into place Oct. 1, 2011. The Post-2011 Review will be conducted by five work groups that will discuss issues and report out at regional meetings. For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.*

TRANSMISSION

Bonneville-Hood River Transmission Line Rebuild [Multnomah and Hood River counties, Ore.]

BPA is accepting comments through April 21 on its proposal to rebuild the 24-mile, 115-kilovolt Bonneville-Hood River transmission line. The line was built with a combination of wood and steel H-frame structures in the late 1930s. Most of the structures are worn and need to be rebuilt to maintain reliable electrical service, avoid risks to the public and ensure worker safety. The project would include replacing structures and conductor (wires), improving access roads and constructing new access roads or trails where needed. To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an environmental assessment. For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/goto/HoodRiver.*

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

BPA will host a "meet the contractor" meeting April 12 for landowners to learn more about the project and discuss any concerns about upcoming construction activities. Representatives from BPA, Michels Power and Tillamook People's Utility District will be on hand to answer questions. In February, after completing an extensive environmental review, BPA decided to rebuild 58 miles of 115-kilovolt transmission line between Hillsboro and Tillamook, Ore. The rebuild will include replacing all wood-pole structures more than 10 years old, including cross arms, cross braces, guy wires, anchors, insulator assemblies, switches and overhead conductor (wires). For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/goto/keelertillamook.*

Transmission System Segmentation Policy Review [Regionwide]

BPA is conducting a public review of its segmentation policy. The next workshop is April 16. This process is a result of the BP-14 rate case, in which a number of parties weighed in on a variety of segmentation concerns and offered recommendations for alternative methodologies. Segmentation is a part of the cost allocation process in determining transmission rates. For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/Finance/RateCases/BP-16/Pages/Meetings-Workshops.aspx.*

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

BPA expects to issue the final environmental assessment in May. The project includes proposed upgrades on the DC transmission line from Celilo Substation south to the Nevada-Oregon border. For information, go to *www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIUpgrade.*

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.*

April 11 – Capital Investment Review Draft Asset Strategies
April 21 – Bonneville-Hood River Transmission Line Rebuild

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Segmentation workshop

- **April 16,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 1201 Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore.

Keeler-Tillamook line rebuild project: Meet the contractor

- **April 12**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oregon Department of Forestry conference room, 5005 Third St., Tillamook, Ore.

Energy Efficiency Post-2011 Policy Review

- **May 8,** 2 to 5 p.m. Meeting details will be available soon at *www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.*

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.