



Journal

October 2016

Journal moves online

BPA is moving the Journal online in January 2017. This change will allow readers to access full-length articles and the most recent public involvement information. We have found that as processes change quickly, the publication can often be out of date at the beginning of the month. The online version will provide interested parties the most relevant information. In addition, the move will allow BPA to save on the printing and mailing expenses of sending thousands of copies out every month.

A monthly email with links to the latest public involvement activities will still be sent at the beginning of every month with a link to the website. If you already receive the Journal electronically, you will automatically be added to the new email list. If you receive a hard copy and wish to be added to the email list, please send an email to Nate Williams at ndwilliams@bpa.gov requesting to be added to the Journal email list. Postcards reminding you of this will be sent out in the next Journal which will also have more information on the new website.

BPA wins awards for recycling, reducing and repurposing

The Bonneville Power Administration continues to be recognized for its sustainability efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency awarded BPA a 2016 Federal Green Challenge Award for recycling and reducing its paper use. And the Association of Oregon Recyclers recently named BPA and property disposal officer Kevin Kertzman its Recycler of the Year for finding a home for hundreds of 30-year-old office cubicles.

“Finding more sustainable and cost-effective ways to operate is just another way we’re being a responsible agency and a good neighbor in the Northwest communities we serve,” said John Hairston, BPA’s chief administrative officer.

EPA’s Federal Green Challenge is a national effort that encourages federal agencies to lead by example in reducing their environmental impact in the areas of waste, energy, water, electronics, transportation and purchasing. In fiscal year 2015, BPA increased its recycling efforts by 71 percent

through the recycling of 2,397 tons of metal, 312 tons of glass and ceramics, 167 tons of wood and 97 tons of e-waste. BPA also cut its paper purchases by 61 percent through a reduction of the number networked printers and the continued adoption of electronic documents and presentations. And it reduced the need for new purchases by returning \$4.3 million worth of usable materials back into its inventory.

Notably, BPA diverted 80 tons of obsolete ceramic and glass insulators from the landfill to certified recycling centers in Portland, Oregon. BPA was also able to recycle copper wire from the insulators, which more than covered the glass and ceramic recycling fees.

“It was a win-win,” said Kevin Kertzman, property disposal officer. “Not only did we reduce our waste, but we were also able to reimburse BPA’s general fund, in turn crediting our electric ratepayers.”



Kevin Kertzman, BPA's property disposal officer, with BPA's Federal Green Challenge Award.





BPA diverted 80 tons of obsolete ceramic and glass insulators from the landfill to certified recycling centers.

The Association of Oregon Recyclers award came after a remodel of BPA's headquarters in Portland, and Kertzman faced the task of disposing of surplus workstations. Early on, due to the age and condition of the furniture there weren't any takers. But after about a year of looking, and with storage costs piling up at about a thousand dollars a month, Kertzman learned that Providence Health & Services, a not-for-profit health and medical care organization, had offices throughout Washington and Oregon that needed that exact type of desks, panels and filing cabinets.

"It was a great outcome," Kertzman said. "We were able to support an important local not-for-profit agency, while eliminating waste and protecting the environment."

In the past five years, BPA has reduced its total energy use by 6.6 percent; saved nearly 30 million gallons of water; cut its fossil fuel use by 285,127 gallons; and diverted 12,498 tons of waste from landfills.

Secretary Moniz recognizes BPA at clean energy workshop

U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz joined clean energy leaders and elected officials from across the Northwest on Aug. 15 to discuss the region's clean energy challenges and opportunities. In his keynote address at the Northwest Regional Clean Energy Innovation Partnership Workshop, Moniz recognized BPA's Technology Innovation program and its role in "moving the innovation agenda." He added BPA has been a "leader of deploying smart technologies like synchrophasors on the grid."

The University of Washington hosted the workshop, which included panel discussions aimed at advancing clean energy innovation and regional collaboration. BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer participated in a panel titled "Policies and Activities to Accelerate Regional Leadership."

Mainzer highlighted energy efficiency as the foundation of clean energy solutions in the Northwest. He also discussed the importance of non-wires solutions, such as demand response and redispatch, to avoid building new infrastructure and to help stretch existing assets where possible. And he pointed to the Technology Innovation program, led by Terry Oliver, through which BPA leverages partnerships to advance clean energy solutions.

"Terry and his team in Technology Innovation have done a great job for BPA over the years," Mainzer said. "We have incredible intellectual capital and tremendous opportunity to demonstrate new technologies. Through our infrastructure and our partnerships, we have the ability to continue pushing the envelope on R&D for years to come."

[Updates & Notices]

Public Involvement

BPA PROJECTS

Integrated Program Review and Capital Investment Review [Regionwide]

BPA kicked off the Integrated Program Review and Capital Investment Review on June 16. The IPR/CIR process allows interested parties to see all relevant FCRPS expense and capital spending-level estimates in one forum. The IPR/CIR is conducted every two years, before each rate case, and provides participants with an opportunity to review and comment on BPA's program-level estimates, draft asset strategies and capital spending levels before their inclusion in the rate case. The comment period closed Aug. 12. A final publication will be published in October. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/ijpr.

TRANSMISSION

Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild Project [Lane County, Oregon]

BPA proposes to rebuild the 26-mile Hills Creek-Lookout Point 115-kilovolt wood-pole transmission line between the cities of Oakridge and Lowell, Oregon. Improvements would involve replacing all wood-pole structures (including poles and other hardware), replacing conductors and ground wires, realigning the line to avoid a rockfall and landslide, and improving access roads. BPA published the draft environmental assessment in August and accepted comments through Sept. 19. The U.S. Forest Service is a cooperating agency with BPA for the EA. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would begin in the summer of 2018. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/Hills-Creek-Lookout-Point.aspx.

Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project [Flathead and Lake counties, Montana]

BPA proposes to rebuild the 41-mile Kalispell-Kerr 115-kV wood-pole transmission line between the cities of Kalispell and Polson, Montana. Improvements would involve replacing all wood-pole structures

Public Involvement continued [Updates & Notices]

(including poles and other hardware), replacing conductors and ground wires, and improving access roads. BPA expects to publish the final environmental assessment in 2016. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would begin in the spring of 2017. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/Kalispell-Kerr.aspx.

Marys Peak BPA Communication Site Project **[Benton County, Oregon]**

BPA needs to maintain and upgrade its existing communication site on the summit of Marys Peak, 12 miles southwest of Corvallis, Oregon. The BPA communication network is essential for the safety and reliability of BPA's power transmission system. This communication network allows for critical information exchange during emergencies, safe and timely power restoration during outages, and supports control of the larger regional BPA power transmission network in the Pacific Northwest. BPA is preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed project and will invite public comment. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/analysis/NEPADocuments/.

Bonneville-Hood River Rebuild Project **[Multnomah and Hood River counties, Oregon]**

BPA is proposing to rebuild portions of its 23-mile, 115-kV Bonneville-Hood River transmission line and an associated tap line running to Cascade Locks, Oregon. BPA is proposing to replace the aged wood and steel lattice H-frame structures and other components along the line and tap, and to improve its access road and trail system. BPA expects to publish the draft environmental assessment this year. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, access road work would begin in the summer of 2017 and structure work would begin in the summer of 2018. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/Hood-River.aspx.

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

Columbia River System Operations environmental impact statement [Regionwide]

On Sept. 30, 2016, the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration – known as the Action Agencies – published a notice of intent in the Federal Register notifying the public that the agencies intend to prepare an environmental impact statement on the long-term system operations and configuration of fourteen federal multiple purpose dams and related facilities located throughout the Columbia River Basin. The Action Agencies will use this EIS process to assess and update their approach on hydropower system operations through the analysis of alternatives and evaluation of potential effects to the human and natural environments, including the effects on socioeconomic factors and species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Action Agencies will serve as joint lead agencies in developing the EIS. Fifteen scoping meetings will be held throughout the region, as well as two online webinars for those that cannot participate in person. A public comment period will run through Jan. 17, 2017. For information, go to www.crso.info.

Middle Entiat River Restoration Project **[Chelan County, Washington]**

BPA is proposing to provide funding for the Middle Entiat River Habitat Restoration Project along a 4-mile section of the Entiat River, in Chelan County, Washington. The goal of the proposed project is to re-establish natural riverine processes and a properly functioning and self-sustaining riverine floodplain ecosystem that would provide critical spawning, rearing and off-channel refuge habitat for native fish and floodplain-associated wildlife in the Entiat River Basin. Target species would be steelhead, bull trout and other resident fish. A draft environmental assessment is expected to be available for comment this year. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/MiddleEntiatRiverHabitat.aspx.

Eightmile Ranch Coho Acclimation Site **[Okanogan County, Washington]**

BPA and the U.S. Forest Service released the final environmental assessment for the Eightmile Ranch Coho Acclimation Site in March. BPA plans to release its finding of no significant impact, if warranted, later this year. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/Eightmile.

Early Winters 3 Coho acclimation site **[Okanogan County, Washington]**

BPA released a supplemental analysis for the Early Winters 3 Coho acclimation site this on Sept. 15, 2016. This site is part of the Mid Columbia Coho Restoration Program, an effort to reintroduce self sustaining populations of coho salmon to the Wenatchee and Methow subbasins. BPA prepared an environmental impact statement for this program in 2012, and the Early Winters 3 site was later added to the program when other sites proved infeasible. An initial project scoping comment period closed in 2014. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/midcolumbiacoho.

Natapoc Fish Hatchery [Chelan County, Washington]

BPA plans to release a supplemental analysis for the Natapoc fish hatchery in late 2016 or early 2017. This site is part of the Mid Columbia Coho Restoration Program, an effort to reintroduce self sustaining populations of coho salmon to the Wenatchee and Methow subbasins. BPA prepared an environmental impact statement for this program in 2012. The EIS addressed the Natapoc Hatchery, at the time known as George Hatchery; however, the location of the hatchery has since changed. An initial project scoping period closed in December 2014. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/midcolumbiacoho.

Crystal Springs Hatchery Program **[Bingham, Lemhi and Custer counties, Idaho]**

BPA is proposing to fund the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation's Crystal Springs Hatchery Program. The program would involve the construction of a hatchery in Bingham County, Idaho, to rear Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon and Yellowstone cutthroat trout as well as the construction of two fish-trapping (weir) facilities in Custer and Lemhi counties. BPA, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the tribes, plans to release a draft environmental impact

Public Involvement continued [updates & Notices]

statement evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed Crystal Springs Hatchery Program this fall. The public comment period will be open for 45 days. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/Crystal-Springs.aspx.

Bird Track Springs Fish Habitat Enhancement Project [Wallowa County, Oregon]

BPA is proposing to fund the Bird Track Springs Enhancement Project, located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and adjacent private lands in Oregon's upper Grande Ronde River. The project is a partnership between BPA, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. The project goals are to benefit ESA-listed Pacific salmonids and their habitat through excavating channel meanders, removing artificial constraints, increasing off-channel connections and in-stream complexity through placement of large wood structures. Initial project scoping concluded in February 2016 and the initial draft of the EA is currently underway. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/BirdTrackSprings.aspx.

Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Project [Chelan and Okanogan counties, Washington]

BPA plans to release a draft environmental assessment for the Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Acclimation Project this fall. This project would be funded by BPA and implemented by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to improve acclimation of hatchery-bred juvenile steelhead and chinook salmon released into the Methow and Wenatchee river basins in Okanogan and Chelan counties, Washington. The initial scoping period closed May 4, 2015. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/ChinookSteelheadAcclimation.

Kootenai River Lower Meander Project [Boundary County, Idaho]

BPA is preparing an environmental assessment for a river restoration project proposed by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho along the Kootenai River one-half mile upstream of Bonner's Ferry, Idaho. The project is designed to enhance islands and side channels and to restore streambanks. The work would include pool excavation, island construction, bank grading, revegetation and large wood structure installation along banks and in channels. The initial scoping began on Sept. 7 and will close Oct. 11, 2016. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/KootenaiMeander.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For current meeting information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/calendar.

Columbia River System Operation EIS Scoping

- **Oct. 24**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Wenatchee Community Center
504 S. Chelan Ave., Wenatchee, Washington

- **Oct. 25**, 4 to 7 p.m.
The Town of Coulee Dam, City Hall
300 Lincoln Ave.,
Coulee City, Washington
- **Oct. 26**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Priest River Community Center
5399 Highway 2, Priest River, Idaho
- **Oct. 27**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Kootenai River Inn Casino and Spa
7169 Plaza St., Missoula, Montana
- **Nov. 1**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Red Lion Hotel Kalispell
20 North Main St., Kalispell, Montana
- **Nov. 2**, 4 to 7 p.m.
City of Libby City Hall, Ponderosa Room
952 E. Spruce St., Libby, Montana
- **Nov. 3**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Missoula
3720 N. Reserve St., Missoula, Montana
- **Nov. 14**, 4 to 7 p.m.
The Historic Davenport Hotel
10 South Post St., Spokane, Washington
- **Nov. 16**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Red Lion Lewiston, Seaport Room
621 21st St., Lewiston, Idaho
- **Nov. 17**, 4 to 7 p.m.
Courtyard Walla Walla, The Blues Room
550 West Rose Street, Walla Walla, Washington
- **Nov. 29**, 4 to 7 p.m.
The Grove Hotel
245 S. Capitol Blvd., Boise, Idaho

Additional meeting locations and information is available online.

Quarterly Business Review

- **Nov. 1**, 9 a.m. to noon
BPA Rates Hearing Room
1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Oregon

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/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/Pages/References.aspx.

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.

