

JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

May 2005

Web site: www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Journal

Trojan refinancing cuts BPA costs

BPA will save \$2.4 million in the next few years thanks to the early April refinancing of \$26.7 million in bonds for the Trojan nuclear plant. The original 1977 bonds carried an overall interest rate of 5.9 percent and were to retire in 2009. The new bonds are at 3.9 percent and will retire in 2008.

BPA and Eugene Water and Electric Board have worked for two years on the refinancing. EWEB owns 30 percent of Trojan and financed its share through net-billed bonds backed by BPA. BPA marketed the power, as it has done for Energy Northwest's Columbia Generation Station at the Hanford Reservation. Portland General Electric owns the other 70 percent of Trojan and operated it until 1993 when it closed the plant due to increasing maintenance costs.

Don't waste our water energy

How much water does it take to generate enough electricity for a 2,000 square-foot home during one hour on a winter evening when the family is preparing a meal,

using its furnace, lights and hot water, and watching TV? The answer is 60,000 gallons – enough to fill the home about waist deep. The question is relevant as the region approaches a sixth dry year in a row, and BPA and other utilities and organizations are urging energy efficiency.

BPA's Ron Denis, an electrical instructor, has put together some data to help people understand the impacts of saving electricity. Especially in a low water year such as this. The numbers are based on flow through a single Columbia River powerhouse with an average head and efficiency as at Bonneville Dam.

Here are some other comparisons in water "costs" for use of electricity:

- A 100-watt porch light left on for eight hours would use more than 3,000 gallons of water.
- A 3,850-watt hot water tank, heating for 90 minutes uses 22,860 gallons.
- A 400-watt PC running for three hours would use 4,750 gallons.
- A 4,000-watt electric furnace, running for four hours would use 63,335 gallons of water.
- A 700-watt microwave running for four minutes uses 185 gallons.
- A 1,200-watt vacuum cleaner in 30 minutes would require 2,375 gallons of water for its electricity.

Pikeminnow reward season opens

The popular pikeminnow fishing season opens this year on May 2 for the lower Columbia River and May 16 for the upstream and the Snake River. BPA funds this sport reward program that has removed nearly 2.4 million of the salmon-eating predators from the Columbia since it began in 1990. Last year alone, anglers turned in 268,000 of the predators. Besides helping save salmon, this program offers sport and fun for individuals and families who like to fish.

This year's program will pay higher reward amounts. The first 100 fish over nine inches long will earn \$4 each; the next 300 will earn \$5 each; and after the first 400 fish, all will earn \$8 each. The reward also goes up for the specially tagged fish that are released into the river. Each of those caught will earn \$500.

Information about where to find northern pikeminnow, how to fish for them and how to qualify for the sport



Don't let dry weather soak you

Due to the lack of rain this past winter, the Northwest could see its driest year since 2001. And, since our region depends on hydropower, that could show up in your power bills.

Still, you don't need to be left high and dry. Everyone can save watts, money and the environment simply by using electricity as efficiently as possible.

Simple changes like the following can pay big dividends.

- Turn off computers, appliances and lighting when not in use.
- Insist on ENERGY STAR® electrical products. Check out www.energystar.gov.
- Install compact fluorescent lights.

For these and other great ideas on how to save both watts and money, go to www.bpa.gov.

You can make a difference.



reward program is available from the Washington Sport Reward Hot Line at (800) 858-9015. For voucher information, call (800) 769-9362 or (503) 595-3297 in Portland. Visit the Web site at www.pikeminnow.org

Agreements cover BPA service to 80

In early April, BPA and nearly 80 utilities signed agreements to cover transmission service for the next 20 years over power lines owned by other utilities. The general transfer agreements provide transmission rate stability and predictability to a large number of small, rural utilities.

The agreements continue a long-standing policy that avoided duplication of transmission in areas where BPA customers are not directly interconnected to BPA high-voltage lines. Many of the non-BPA lines were built decades ago. Rather than build duplicative lines to reach its customers, BPA negotiated agreements with the other transmission owners to deliver power to BPA's customers.

USEA gives utility award to BPA

The United States Energy Association gave BPA its Utility Partnership Volunteers Award for 2005. The USEA is a nonprofit association of 160 public and private energy organizations that arrange partnerships between U.S. energy entities and their counterparts in developing countries.

The award recognized BPA for its work in helping Bangladesh modernize and expand its power system. In recent years, more than 20 BPA engineers and technicians have volunteered for tours of duty in Bangladesh.

The U.S. Agency for International Development pays their expenses. The award was presented to BPA at the USEA annual meeting April 19 in Washington, D.C.

Transformer silencer succeeds

BPA engineers have found a solution to the noise coming from a transformer bank at Sno-King Substation north of Bothel, Wash. After finding that the culprit was a small amount of direct current that is getting into the substation from somewhere, engineers designed a device called a flux offset controller.

Installed in early April, it has reduced the noise dramatically and cheered nearby landowners. Other utilities are interested in the device and BPA plans to publish its work in technical journals.

Future fish and wildlife costs being reviewed

Potential Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program costs in fiscal years 2007 through 2009 were the focus of a BPA technical workshop in early April. The review was part of the power function review (PFR) that allows interested parties to examine and comment on project costs that will form the basis for the FY 2007 wholesale power rate case.

BPA will accept input on the various cost categories through May 20. A "closeout" letter is expected shortly thereafter, detailing anticipated costs for the 2007 through 2009 rate period. Additional information along with an updated schedule of meetings is posted on BPA's Web site at [t www.bpa.gov/power/review](http://www.bpa.gov/power/review)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT Updates and Notices

NEW PROJECTS

BPA Fast Facts update is online

The updated "BPA Fast Facts" with data from fiscal 2004 is now available online. This handy two-page reference has a lot of information about BPA, its operation and the Federal Columbia River Power System. Two new items added this year are a count of BPA customers by groups and disposition of revenue from last year.

Fast Facts has regional generation information, BPA rates and 2004 financial highlights. It has data on the transmission system fish and wildlife investments and conservation. In addition to listing all the federal hydro projects, it gives other details of BPA power resources and of regional energy resources. Fast Facts also has BPA's vision, mission, and a list of senior executives. It includes a map that shows the transmission grid and federal dams, and has a list of BPA contacts with regional offices and customer service centers.

You can find BPA Fast Facts at http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/about_BPA/Facts/FactDocs/BPA_Facts_2004.pdf.

Libby-Troy 115-kilovolt Transmission Line Rebuild - Lincoln County, Mont.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a 17-mile section of the Libby to Bonners Ferry 115-kV transmission line in order to improve its reliability and meet future load growth in the Libby, Mont. area. Current options for the project include rebuilding the line in-kind, as a single-circuit 115-kV wood pole H-frame line with some wood-pole equivalent steel poles; rebuilding the line as a double-circuit 115-kV tubular steel pole line; rebuilding the line as a double-circuit 230-kV tubular steel pole line; and the alternative of not rebuilding the line. Other

alternatives may be identified through the scoping process. The open comment period for this project closes June 9, 2005. A notice for the upcoming scoping meeting will be mailed to landowners and other interested parties on May 5. For more information on the project visit: http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=LTL or <http://www.cfw.bpa.gov>. (See calendar of events and close of comment.)

Victoria/Port Angeles Transmission Line Interconnection - Port Angeles, Wash.

Olympic Converter has requested to integrate 500 MW of transmission into the FCRTS with a line across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The line would interconnect at BPA's existing Port Angeles Substation and would not require any additional facilities to be constructed by BPA. BPA is leading the environmental studies and coordinating efforts with several other federal agencies including the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity and Energy Assurance. BPA will hold a public scoping meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Peninsula College, Room J47 (old dormitory dining hall), 1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd., Port Angeles, Wash. See http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

AGENCY - ONGOING PROJECTS

Supplement Analysis to the Business Plan EIS - Regionwide

BPA will prepare an SA to its Business Plan EIS. The 1995 EIS analyzed the environmental impacts of BPA's business practices, such as marketing and transmitting power, energy conservation, renewable energy development and fish and wildlife mitigation activities. The impacts analyzed include effects on the natural, economic and social

environments. Public letters announcing and outlining the SA to the Business Plan EIS went out in December 2004. The comment period on the SA closed on March 1, 2005. For additional information about the SA, and the comments that were received, see BPA's Web site at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/bpsa/.

CONSERVATION – ONGOING PROJECTS

Conservation and Renewables Discount Program – Regionwide

As prescribed in the C&RD Manual, BPA's Energy Efficiency staff took comments for improvements to the C&RD for fiscal year 2006. The proposed changes for the manual or technical components of the C&RD will be posted on the Web the first week of May. The comment period closes on June 3, 2005. For more information call (503) 230-7669. Copies of the C&RD Manual are on the Web at http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/projects/cr_discount/. This site also provides a link to the Regional Technical Forum, which has a list of the current approved efficiency measures. *(See close of comment.)*

FISH AND WILDLIFE – ONGOING PROJECTS

Federal Caucus

A new e-mail list has been created to provide updates on Federal Caucus activities to protect and recover endangered fish in the Columbia River Basin. E-mail notices will be sent when updates are posted to the Federal Caucus Web site www.salmonrecovery.gov. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send contact information to Katherine Cheney at kacheney@bpa.gov.

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EIS – Wallowa and Union counties, Ore.

Fish trapping, incubation, rearing and release hatchery facilities are proposed to help boost spring chinook salmon populations in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha river basins of Northeast Oregon. Planned facilities would modify and augment existing Lower Snake River Compensation Plan facilities. The FEIS is available online at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grande_Ronde/. A ROD to proceed with land acquisition, final design and further evaluation studies was signed March 11, 2005.

Kootenai River Ecosystem/Fisheries Improvement Study – Boundary and Bonners counties, Idaho, and Lincoln County, Mont.

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (in coordination with Idaho Fish and Game; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks) plans to initiate a controlled nutrient restoration effort in the mainstem Kootenai River near the Montana-Idaho border. A Preliminary EA is available for review and comment. Comments are due by May 5, 2005. More information is available online at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Kootenai/. *(See close of comment.)*

Salmon Creek EIS – Okanogan County, Wash

BPA proposes to fund a project to enhance fish habitat, fish passage and instream flows in 4.3 miles of lower Salmon Creek, a tributary of the Okanogan River. The project would rehabilitate the stream channel, revegetate stream banks and increase streamflows. A DEIS was released in September 2004 and is available at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Salmon_Creek/. A public meeting was held Sept. 28, 2004, and the comment period closed Nov. 9, 2004. Further environmental analysis and comment on this project is delayed until summer 2005 and will continue only if given approval for funding by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

South Fork Flathead Watershed/Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program EIS – Flathead National Forest, Mont.

BPA proposes to fund a project to remove exotic trout species from selected lakes in the South Fork of the Flathead drainage. A DEIS was released and the comment period closed Aug. 20, 2004. A FEIS is being prepared. Additional information is available at http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/South_Fork_Flathead/.

POWER – ONGOING PROJECTS

Power Function Review – Regionwide

BPA's Power Business Line's Power Function Review began in January 2005. This process has provided interested parties an opportunity to examine, understand and provide input on the cost projections, including fish and wildlife costs, which will form the basis for the FY 2007 wholesale power rate case. Input received will be considered in establishing program costs for the FY 2007 rate case initial proposal, which is expected in the fall of 2005. A number of technical workshops, management discussions and regional public meetings have been held. Closeout meetings have been scheduled for the technical workshops and the management level discussions. The public comment period closes May 20, 2005, to allow participants an opportunity to provide comment on a draft of the Power Function Review closeout letter. Additional information is posted on BPA's Web site at www.bpa.gov/power/review. *(See calendar of events and close of comment.)*

BPA Service to DSI Customers – “Straw Proposal” – Regionwide

On Feb. 4, 2005, BPA sent a letter to customers, constituents, tribes and other regional stakeholders announcing additional opportunities for public input on BPA service to DSI customers during the FY 2007-2011 period. The public process was to seek comments on the BPA “straw proposal” described in the letter and on other alternatives that may be proposed. BPA held a public meeting on March 1 to hear comments from the public. The comment period closed March 11, 2005. For a complete list of comments received or to find more information, check out BPA's Web site at <http://www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/announcements.shtml>.

TRANSMISSION – ONGOING PROJECTS

Arlington CEP Wind Project Interconnection – Gilliam County, Ore.

Columbia Energy Partners (CEP) has postponed this project until further funding is available. The project has been moved to the 2006 construction schedule. CEP had requested to integrate up to 200 MW of power generated from the Arlington CEP Wind Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. CEP would interconnect to the proposed Jones Canyon BPA substation adjacent to the 230-kV McNary-Santiam line. BPA's proposed project would involve building Jones Canyon Substation adjacent to the CEP collector substation and an access road from the county road to the BPA substation. Construction of the substation would involve clearing approximately six acres of grassland to build a short access road and a substation. A tiered ROD to the Business Plan EIS was issued in January 2005. See http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Arlington/ for more information.

Big Horn Wind Project Interconnection – Klickitat County, Wash.

PPM Energy has requested to integrate up to 200 MW of power generated from the Big Horn Wind Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. BPA would need to build a new switching substation, which would be called Spring Creek Substation. Klickitat County issued a conditional use permit for the wind project. A tiered ROD to the Business Plan EIS was issued on March 24, 2005. See <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> for more information.

Combine Hills Wind Project Interconnection – Umatilla County, Ore.

This project has been postponed and moved to the 2006 construction schedule. Eurus Energy America Corporation has requested to integrate up to 63 MW of power generated from the Combine Hills Wind Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. BPA would need to upgrade 5.8 miles of the Walla Walla-Pendleton transmission line. The upgrade of the transmission line would involve replacing the wood poles within the same right-of-way and stringing new conductor. This request is an expansion of an existing 41-MW interconnection to PP&L's transmission system. A public letter describing the proposal was sent out in December 2004. See <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> for more information.

Hanford Reach National Monument CCP/EIS – Benton, Franklin and Grant counties, Wash.

BPA is participating as a cooperating agency in a land management planning process led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS seeks to develop a comprehensive conservation plan as

required by the Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. BPA is providing information and writing sections of the plan that pertain to transmission facilities, roads, energy facilities and river flow management within the monument. A DEIS is scheduled for release in 2005.

Hopkins Ridge Wind Project Interconnection - Columbia County, Wash.

BPA was asked by RES America Developments to interconnect 150 MW of the output of the proposed Hopkins Ridge Wind Project, which will require constructing a BPA switching substation adjacent to an existing BPA transmission line. BPA decided to offer contract terms for interconnection in a ROD tiered to BPA's Business Plan EIS and the Business Plan ROD. The tiered ROD was finalized on Dec. 20, 2004. Construction began on the BPA substation in March 2005. See <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> for more information, including the ROD.

Klondike III Wind Project Interconnection - Sherman County, Ore.

BPA has been asked by PPM Energy Inc. to interconnect 300 MW of the output of the proposed Klondike III Wind Project. Interconnection would require BPA to build and operate a new 230-kV transmission line and two substations. The new facilities would be built near the towns of Wasco and Rufus, Ore. BPA plans to analyze the effects of the BPA action and the PPM Wind Project in an EIS. BPA expects to issue a Draft EIS in summer 2005. On March 1, 2005, a scoping meeting was held in Wasco, Ore. The initial comment period closed March 17. An additional public scoping meeting was held on April 27, and the new comment period will close on May 13. See <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> for more information. (See close of comment.)

Leaning Juniper Wind Project Interconnection (Formerly Arlington PPM Wind Project Interconnection) - Gilliam County, Ore.

This project has been postponed and moved to the 2006 construction schedule. Pacific Power Marketing has requested to integrate up to 200 MW of power generated from the Leaning Juniper Wind Project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. PPM would interconnect at the same substation as proposed for the Arlington CEP Wind Project described above (Jones Canyon). A tiered ROD, under the Business Plan EIS, was signed March 11, 2005. See <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> for more information.

Nisqually Transmission Line Relocation Project EA - Thurston County, Wash.

BPA will relocate two miles of transmission line corridor off the Nisqually Indian Reservation in Thurston County, Wash. Construction of the lines on Fort Lewis is scheduled to begin in May 2005 with removal of the existing lines, and completion of the project is expected by winter 2005. A preliminary EA was released for public comment in October 2004. There were few public comments. A revision sheet for the EA, a FONSI and a mitigation action plan were released Feb. 7, 2005. See http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

Schultz-Wautoma Area 500-kV Line Project - near Ellensburg to near the Hanford Reservation, Wash.

BPA is building a new 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to the new Wautoma Substation southwest of the Hanford Monument. Construction of the Sickler-Schultz portion of the line began in February 2004. A construction update letter was sent in December 2004. Fiber construction began in late January 2004. Seventy-three transmission towers were flown into place the week of Jan. 24 and stringing is underway. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2005. An FEIS was released in February 2003. The ROD was released in March 2003. Construction on the new Wautoma

Substation began May 5, 2003, and is halfway complete. See http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information and construction photos.

White Bluffs-Richland Relocation - Benton, Wash.

BPA completed the relocation of a portion of the White Bluffs-Richland 115-kilovolt transmission line that was formerly located in private homeowner backyards of the 1800 block of Stevens and Mahan drives in Richland, Wash. BPA energized the relocated line on March 24. BPA plans to relocate its transmission line to the city of Richland's power line located on the east side of Stevens Drive so that both lines would be located within the city's right-of-way. Construction began in fall 2004 and two concrete pier foundations were installed. A construction update letter was sent to the landowners announcing construction to resume in March 2005. See http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/ for more information.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

Lower Red River Meadow Stream Restoration Project EA

- SA-01 Red River Restoration Project O&M - Idaho County, Idaho

Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project EA

- SA-04 Modifications to Original Proposal - Columbia and Snake Rivers

Watershed Management Program EIS

- SA-206 Toppenish Creek Watershed Restoration Project - Yakima County, Wash.
- SA-207 Improvement of Anadromous Fish Habitat and Passage in Omak Creek - Okanogan County, Wash.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Power Function Review - Technical Workshops

- **May 9** - 1 to 4 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave. Topic: Summary of what we've heard and discussion of outstanding issues and draft closeout letter.

Power Function Review - Management-Level Discussions

- **May 16** - 9 a.m. to noon, BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave. Topic: Summary of what we've heard, outstanding issues and discussion with the administrator.

Libby-Troy Transmission Line Rebuild

- **May 19** - 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. in the Kootenai National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1101 Highway 2 West, Libby, Mont.

Victoria/Port Angeles Transmission Line - Public Scoping Meeting

- **May 24** - 4 to 7 p.m., Peninsula College, Room J47 (old dormitory dining hall) 1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd, Port Angeles, Wash.

RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED BY ADMINISTRATOR

- **March 24, 2005** - Big Horn Wind Project

CLOSE OF COMMENT

- **May 5** - Kootenai River Ecosystem/Fisheries Improvement Study
- **May 13** - Klondike III Wind Project Interconnection
- **May 20** - Power Function Review
- **June 3** - Conservation and Renewables Discount Program
- **June 9** - Libby-Troy 115-kilovolt Transmission Line Rebuild

If you have questions or comments, or you want to be added to the mailing list for any project, call (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 1-800-622-4519.

To order copies of documents, call: 1-800-622-4520 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. BPA home page: <http://www.bpa.gov>. For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/Projects_Process_Abbreviations: EA-Environmental Assessment, EFSEC-Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, EFSC-Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, DEIS-Draft Environmental Impact Statement, FEIS-Final Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision, SA-Supplement Analysis.

