

journal

February 2008

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Science Bowl off to a great start

BPA's 16th annual Science Bowl kicked off Jan. 26 at the University of Portland campus in Portland, Ore. Fifty-three middle school teams competed this year, up from 36 last year. The reigning champions, Access Middle School's Team 1 from Portland, Ore., prevailed again. They will be headed to Denver, Colo., on June 19 to compete against 66 other regional winners for the national championship.

On Feb. 2, high school students from 64 teams will compete for scholarships, which go to the top three teams, and a chance to compete in the national championship in Washington, D.C., later this spring. The BPA Science Bowl is a quiz-show-style round robin competition aimed at raising and encouraging students' interest in math, science and technology.

For more information on BPA's Science Bowl, visit www.bpa.gov/sb.

Partnership benefits Flathead Valley

Through an innovative partnership, 670 acres of conservation easements will permanently protect wildlife habitat, critical working lands and open space in the heart of Flathead Valley. Located along the Flathead River near Kalispell, Mont., these lands provide a protected environment for the spawning and rearing of threatened bull trout as well as the west slope cutthroat trout. Bald eagles, osprey, herons and river otter are some of the other key native species that make their homes in this region filled with forests, warm water springs, sloughs and well-established riparian areas.

Funding for the easements was provided by BPA and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. BPA's mitigation funding is part of a memorandum of agreement between BPA, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation to partially mitigate for the impacts to native fish populations associated with construction of Hungry Horse Dam. These lands will remain working farmlands, contributing to the local economy while also guaranteeing habitat protection along the riparian and wetland areas.

"This project is another great example of what private, public, tribal and other interests can accomplish in the region when we work together," said Greg Delwiche, vice president of Environment, Fish and Wildlife.

The Trust for Public Land acquired the conservation easements and conveyed them to the Montana Land Reliance, the largest land trust in Montana, for long-term stewardship. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will develop a land management plan that will guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

For more information on conservation easements, visit www.efw.bpa.gov.



Tundra swans enjoy one of the many habitats protected by an agreement between BPA, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation. (Photo courtesy of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks)

BPA passes a wind generation milestone

For the first time in BPA's history, the amount of wind power being delivered to customers via its transmission lines exceeded 1,000 megawatts. Between Nov. 10 and Dec. 27, 2007, BPA surpassed 1,000 MW of wind transmission approximately 7 percent of the time, and on Dec. 23 and 24, wind generation peaked at 1,180 MW.

Because wind power is only generated when the wind blows, BPA transmitted between 0 and 20 MW of wind almost 20 percent of the time during that same time period. These numbers demonstrate how intermittent wind generation is and how challenging it can be to integrate wind into the mix of power sources that serve the Northwest. BPA is working with utilities and other stakeholders in the region to develop approaches to effectively manage the variability of wind power to meet consumer demand.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fifth Northwest Power Plan anticipates wind power will play a major role in meeting the region's future demand for electricity. The plan foresees the development of up to 5,000 MW of new wind power over its



20-year planning period. To date, BPA has connected 13 wind projects into the region's transmission grid and has a wind generation capacity of 1,400 MW.

Conservation program exceeds goal

In last month's Journal, it was reported that BPA's conservation program met its 2007 goal of 52 average megawatts. Energy Efficiency staff have since completed an evaluation of late-arriving reports and concluded that BPA actually surpassed its goal and achieved a savings of 58.5 average megawatts. That's the same as generating enough energy to power 50,000 homes.

"Energy efficiency is an important resource," said BPA Vice President Mike Weedall. "Saving electricity provides the same benefit as gaining a new, carbon free and inexpensive source of environmentally friendly power. That's one of the many reasons BPA established an aggressive new goal for energy conservation, a goal which I'm proud to say we solidly surpassed." BPA will officially publish these conservation statistics, which are preliminary at this point, this spring in the agency's Annual Report on Conservation Savings.

Since 1982, BPA's conservation efforts have saved about 1,000 megawatts for the region, or about the amount of power generated by one of the largest dams in the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Ex parte communications prohibited

BPA will publish a Federal Register Notice Feb. 8, 2008, for its FY 2007 Supplemental Wholesale Power (WP-07) Rate Adjustment proceeding to establish power rates for fiscal year 2009 in response to the Ninth Circuit Court's remand of BPA's power rates for FY 2002-2006. This proceeding also responds to a separate court decision that found BPA's 2000 Residential Exchange Program Settlement Agreements, as amended, contrary to law. In response, BPA proposes to determine the amount of benefits BPA's investor-owned utility customers received, or would have received, from FY 2002 through FY 2008 under the REP Settlement Agreements.

Until the final rate case record of decision is signed, ex parte communications regarding any matter pending before BPA in this rate proceeding (i.e., any such communication that is not on the record, except for certain nonsubstantive communications) are prohibited. The purpose of the ex parte rule is to assure that all oral or written communications with BPA during the rate case are shared and on the record. The formal process for the WP-07 Supplemental Proceeding will begin with a prehearing conference Feb. 19.

Former Administrator Charles F. Luce dies

Charles F. Luce, who served as BPA administrator from 1961 to 1966, died Saturday, Jan. 26, at age 90.

In 1961, with strong encouragement from Washington Senator Henry Jackson, President John F. Kennedy

appointed Mr. Luce, then a Walla Walla attorney, as BPA administrator, a position he held for six years. During his BPA tenure, he spearheaded the signing of a treaty with Canada to provide more upstream storage in the Columbia, helped lay the groundwork for the California interties, promoted the Hanford generating project (a forerunner of Energy Northwest) and supported regional preference legislation.

Later, in 1984, at the behest of Senator Jackson, he headed a blue ribbon panel known as the Luce Commission, which was called on to help address the financial problems of the Northwest utility community, largely due to the default of two non-federally backed nuclear plants.

Following his service at BPA, Mr. Luce was appointed Undersecretary of the Interior during the Johnson Administration, and later chief executive officer of Consolidated Edison of New York, the largest utility in the nation. He served as CEO and chairman of that company for 15 years.

Agreement will save fish, help farmers

After six years of negotiations, BPA joined partners in signing an innovative agreement last month that will restore fish runs without impeding irrigation on Manastash Creek, a snowmelt-fed creek that flows into the Yakima River west of Ellensburg, Wash.

The agreement spells out requirements for new fish screens and other measures to improve fish passage and streamflows, as well as maintaining irrigation needs for farmers. More than 60 individual landowners across more than 4,000 acres hold water rights to divert water from the creek, with some rights dating as far back as 1871.

The creek provides up to 30 miles of pristine headwater for steelhead rearing habitat, but it has been substantially blocked for decades by several irrigation diversions in the lower reaches. Other hurdles for fish are dry periods in the creek and the outmoded fish screens that fail to keep migrating smolts out of irrigation canals and ditches.

Those signing the agreement include the major irrigators on Manastash Creek, BPA, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Environmental Council, and the Kittitas County Conservation District. The Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Ecology also participated in the negotiations. Work on these projects will begin this summer.

Winter reliability redispatch program

BPA and participating generators within the BPA balancing authority have brought a previously tested tool back into production to help manage potential transmission congestion across the Cross Cascades flowgates (north and south).

The current pilot began in December 2007 and will run through April 30, 2008. It is structured the same as the previous pilot, with one key addition: because Cross Cascades constraints are very low probability events, BPA will notify participants in advance via e-mail of impending constraints across the flowgates when known. This should give utilities time to respond when conditions warrant the need to use redispatch for either of the flowgates.

The goal of the pilot is to reduce congestion on BPA's transmission system without curtailing schedules. BPA has developed a methodology that calculates the required movement of generators to relieve congestion based on each generator's impact on particular flowgates and the cost of each bid. It will provide BPA dispatchers with a list of potential actions they can request participating generators to perform by either increasing or decreasing their generation.

publicinvolvement

updates and notices

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program – Okanogan County, Wash.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council recommended that BPA study a program sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to assist in conservation and recovery of summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. This program would include a new hatchery near the base of Chief Joseph Dam and acclimation ponds throughout the Okanogan River subbasin. The use of the proposed facilities to reintroduce spring chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin is also being considered. The program would augment the ceremonial and subsistence harvest of salmon for the Colville Tribes. This program would be designed to have no effect on Chief Joseph Dam operations. Public meetings on the draft EIS were held and comments were accepted through June 18, 2007. A final EIS is planned for April 2008 and a ROD is expected by June 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project – Klickitat County, Wash.

BPA is preparing an EIS for the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project. The project addresses the modification and upgrade to the existing fishway in order to improve fish access to spawning habitat in the upper reaches of the Klickitat River and meet state and federal fish passage standards. The project would also facilitate the collection of valuable biological (fisheries) information. The draft EIS is being finalized with a scheduled release to the public this month. A 45-day public comment period will follow, including a public meeting. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program, Grande Ronde- Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project – Wallowa County, Ore.

BPA has conducted value engineering, land acquisition and final design according to the initial ROD signed March 11, 2005. A ROD authorizing construction is planned for summer 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Ronde/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

BPA to develop smelter contracts – Regionwide

BPA is describing in a public workshop, held under the auspices of BPA's Long-term Regional Dialogue effort, its preferred alternative for developing a contract with the smelters. At the workshop, BPA personnel will discuss with interested parties the benefit level of BPA's preferred alternative for its contract development. An opportunity to provide written comments on alternatives and draft contract will follow the workshop. (See calendar of events)

Regional Dialogue Policy Implementation – Regionwide

BPA released the Long-Term Regional Dialogue final policy and ROD in July and began a series of implementation workshops focused on product development. Those workshops concluded in early December 2007 and BPA has begun to focus on drafting the Tiered Rate Methodology. For more information on the Regional Dialogue Policy Implementation, see BPA's Web site: www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Albeni Falls-Sand Creek Transmission Line Project – Bonner County, Idaho

BPA will replace poles on a section of the Albeni Falls-Sand Creek transmission line in northern Idaho and perform other upgrades to improve the reliability of the line. Approximately 340 wood poles will be replaced along about 25 miles of the existing transmission line. The project area is on an existing right-of-way from the Albeni Falls Dam to one mile north of BPA's Sandpoint Substation. In addition, 17 miles of the line will be reconducted to a larger conductor. BPA employees or contractors will be in the area through summer 2008, performing various activities in support of the project, such as surveying for cultural resources and noxious weeds as well as reviewing the area for dangerous trees. An informational open house was held Aug. 16, 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Caribou-Lower Valley Project (includes Hooper Springs Substation) – Caribou County, Idaho

BPA is proposing to build, own, operate and maintain the new Hooper Springs 138/115-kV substation near a proposed PacifiCorp substation near Soda Springs, Idaho. BPA would connect to PacifiCorp's new substation (Threemile Knoll) to improve service to Lower Valley Energy. Lower Valley Energy would construct, own and operate a new 20-mile double-circuit 115-kV transmission line from BPA's new substation to a tap on the Lower Valley Energy transmission system between Lanes Creek and Valley substations. BPA is proposing to help fund this transmission line with a third-party financing arrangement. BPA held a public scoping meeting Nov. 1, 2007, to discuss the proposed project. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Caribou/.

Cascade Wind Interconnection Project – Wasco County, Ore.

BPA has been asked by UPC Oregon Wind, LLC, to interconnect up to 50-MW of electricity generated from UPC's proposed Cascade Wind Project. UPC would independently build, own and operate the wind project and its associated facilities. The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council has siting and approval jurisdiction over the proposed wind project and is concurrently

reviewing UPC's proposed wind project. If UPC's project is approved, BPA proposes to construct a new switchyard and tap beneath BPA's existing Hood River-The Dalles 115-kV transmission line. Comments to BPA's possible point of interconnection were accepted through Aug. 10, 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/default.cfm?page=cascade.

Chehalis-Centralia Transmission Line Rebuild – Lewis County, Wash.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a portion of its 69-kV transmission line to a 115-kV design to address increased industrial loads and other load growth in the area. The line extends from the Chehalis Substation about 15 miles north to the Centralia Substation. The portion to be rebuilt under this project would include only the first 12 miles from Chehalis to Ford's Prairie Tap. Proposed activities include upgrading some existing access roads, removing and replacing existing structures and installing new wire. A minor reroute of less than one mile will likely be needed near Ford's Prairie to accommodate planned Port of Centralia developments. Once the review is complete, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction could begin in spring 2008 and be completed as early as November 2008.

Columbia-Ellensburg Transmission Line Upgrade – Kittitas County, Wash.

A section of BPA's Columbia-Ellensburg 115-kV transmission line needs upgrades to address line overloads in the area. The section extends from the Ellensburg Substation about 10 miles north to the Schultz Substation and then approximately four miles east toward the Columbia Substation. All existing wood poles and associated hardware would be replaced. Most new poles would be located in or as close to existing holes as possible. A portion of the existing conductor may be replaced to meet current industry standards. Three switches would also be replaced. Some existing access roads may need improvements and additional access routes may need to be purchased. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction could begin in spring 2008 and be completed as early as June 2009.

Libby (Flathead Electric Cooperative)-to-Troy Section of the Libby-to-Bonnars Ferry 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild – Lincoln County, Mont.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a 17-mile section of the Libby-to-Bonnars Ferry 115-kV transmission line to improve reliability and meet future load growth in Lincoln County, Mont. BPA issued a draft EIS on July 20, 2007, and held a public meeting Aug. 15, 2007. Comments were accepted through Sept. 4, 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

McNary-Badger Canyon Transmission Line Rebuild – Benton County, Wash.

BPA is proposing to rebuild its McNary-Badger Canyon 115-kV transmission line outside of Kennewick, Wash. The line extends 18.3 miles from the river crossing north of McNary substation northeast and then west toward Badger Canyon. The line was built in 1949 and many of the wood poles and cross arms are in need of replacement. In addition, BPA was requested by Energy Northwest to interconnect 32 MW from the Nine Canyon wind farm near Kennewick, Wash. BPA needs to upgrade the McNary-Badger Canyon transmission line to

provide the wind farm adequate transmission capacity and prevent overload on the line. Construction activities would include adding a new transformer at the Nine Canyon Tap, replacing most of the wood poles with new ones that are five to 10 feet taller than the originals and replacing the wire. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction could begin in spring 2008.

Olympic Peninsula Reinforcement Project – Thurston and Mason Counties, Wash.

BPA is proposing to replace a 14.5 mile portion of an existing 115-kV transmission line between Olympia and Shelton substations with a double-circuit 230-kV line. This project would also require adding equipment at the substations. This would improve voltage stability during winter-peak load conditions on the Olympic Peninsula. BPA expects to release a preliminary EA this month for a two-week review and comment period. If a FONSI can be made at the conclusion of the review and BPA decides to proceed with this project, construction could begin in spring 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Rebuild – Bonneville and Bingham Counties, Idaho

The Palisades-Goshen 115-kV transmission line was built in 1949. The line extends from Palisades Dam in eastern Idaho approximately 52 miles west to BPA's Goshen Substation south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The majority of the wood poles and cross arms are in need of replacement. BPA proposes to rebuild this line due to its age and deteriorated condition to ensure safe and reliable transmission service. Field work has been completed and BPA expects to issue an EA in March 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Port Angeles-Juan de Fuca Transmission Project – Port Angeles, Wash.

BPA released the final EIS Oct. 4. The EIS evaluates the request from Sea Breeze Olympic Converter LP to interconnect a 550-MW transmission cable to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. The cable would run from Vancouver Island, B.C., across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Port Angeles, Wash. BPA expects to issue a ROD this month to determine if it will allow the interconnection. For more information, see BPA's Web site: www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

SA-354 – Snoking Tap to Echo Lake – Monroe #1 Snohomish County, Wash.

SA-355 – Metaline Falls Tap to Colville – Boundary #1 Pend Oreille County, Wash.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view BPA's public involvement calendar, visit: www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Calendar/.

Direct Service Industry Contract Workshop

Feb. 15, 9 a.m. to noon, BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

Wholesale Power Rate Case Pre-hearing Conference

Feb. 19, 9 a.m., Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

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. 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.

