

Journal

January 2011

BPA develops new wind plan

Building on the success of its first Wind Integration Team Work Plan, BPA has developed the next generation of wind integration pilot projects, called WIT 2.0. Through Jan. 21, BPA is requesting comments on seven pilots in the draft WIT 2.0 Work Plan. The agency completed its first wind integration work plan in October.

BPA now supports more than 3,000 megawatts of wind power in its transmission grid and expects another 1,000 MW this year with still more in the wings. The WIT 2.0 projects will help BPA manage this growth. Three pilots aim to expand power trading within each hour. Three others seek to expand sources of reserves beyond the limits of the federal hydropower system. And BPA is using three different wind forecasts this year to improve wind power scheduling.

BPA will hold a public meeting Jan. 13 on the draft work plan [[SEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)]. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/WindPower/WIT.cfm.

Good returns reveal fish protection

Surface passage improvements for fish now in place at all federal dams on the Lower Columbia and Snake rivers boosted the safe migration of juvenile salmon and steelhead, one of several key advances outlined in a new federal assessment of progress in protecting Columbia and Snake river fish.

The passage improvements such as spillway weirs, also called fish slides, help speed young fish downstream past dams by keeping them near the water surface, where they naturally migrate. Installation of a spillway weir at Little Goose Dam on the Snake River last year means all eight federal Snake and Lower Columbia dams now provide surface passage. Tests at Little Goose found that 99.4 percent of yearling chinook, 99.8 percent of steelhead and 95.2 percent of sub-yearling chinook passed the dam safely.

“Almost all of the fish are coming through the dam safely now and we’re on track to meet passage standards at all of the other projects,” said Witt Anderson, Director of Programs, Northwest Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The results come from a new report describing the second year of progress by the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and BPA in implementing NOAA-Fisheries’ biological opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System. The biological opinion outlines protections for fish affected by federal dams, promoting positive trends in salmon survival and returns. For instance, in-river survival of juvenile Snake River steelhead migrating to the ocean in 2009 reached its highest level in 12 years, a sign the fish are benefiting from improved surface passage.

Among other results in the report:

- Federal agencies in 2009 restored water to salmon and steelhead streams that otherwise dwindle or run dry at the same time fish are returning to spawn. The agencies since 2005 have protected and restored stream flows totaling more than three times the average water use of Seattle and Portland combined.
- The agencies fine-tuned spring and summer spill patterns at each dam to best help juvenile fish headed downstream.
- The agencies in 2009 reopened nearly 265 miles of spawning and other salmon and steelhead habitat that had been blocked by impassible culverts, diversions or other obstacles. Since 2005, the agencies have restored access to a total of 845 miles of habitat.

The biological opinion specifies performance standards for safe passage of juvenile fish past each federal dam. Tests so far indicate that results are on track to meet those standards through a combination of spill, surface passage

Watch us work

LEARN HOW SCIENCE AND SPILL ARE OPTIMIZING FISH PASSAGE AT THE DAMS.

Also, see how biologists at the Yakama Nation’s salmon hatchery in Prosser, Wash., are intercepting kelts — repeat spawning steelhead — and reconditioning them after they spawn so they’re healthier, stronger and more likely to spawn again. Go to www.bpa.gov/go/news, or visit our [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel.





There was once an impassable culvert on Idaho's Salt Creek. Replacing the culvert with a bridge reopened healthy habitat to salmon, steelhead, bull trout and cutthroat trout.

improvements that increase the benefits of spill and other actions.

For more details, visit www.salmonrecovery.gov.

Transmission rates to stay flat

BPA and its transmission customers reached a partial settlement in December to avoid a transmission rate increase as customers manage through a difficult economy.

Under the settlement, BPA will use some of its financial reserves to cover transmission costs so transmission rates remain level in fiscal years 2012 and 2013. BPA transmission rates are separate from wholesale power rates and apply to Northwest utilities and others that transmit electricity on BPA's high-voltage lines.

The settlement agreement excludes rates BPA charges for use of the Montana Intertie, which BPA partially owns. This 500-kilovolt power line integrates generation from Montana's Colstrip power plant into BPA's transmission system. The agreement also excludes certain ancillary and control area services that allow BPA to maintain system reliability. These services, which include wind integration, will be litigated in the rate case.

The transmission rate schedule will mirror the Residential Exchange Settlement schedule through cross examination, and then will merge with the power portion of the BP-12 rate case to provide a single record of decision in July 2011. BPA expects to issue a draft record of decision in June. Rates will go into effect Oct. 1, 2011.

For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/.

REP settlement rate case begins

In December, BPA published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the beginning of a rate case (REP-12) on a proposed settlement of the Residential Exchange Program. In the coming months, BPA will review the proposed settlement before determining whether to sign it and implement its terms in the agency's power rates for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Settlement would resolve the litigation over the current REP in exchange for a defined 17-year stream of REP benefits to the investor-owned utilities and a defined payment obligation for the agency's preference utilities.

The Residential Exchange Program was established by the Northwest Power Act of 1980. It was designed to provide rate relief for residential and small-farm customers of high-system-cost utilities so that all Northwest citizens can share in the benefits of the low-cost federal power system.

The formal rate case is expected to finish in late June. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/rep-12.cfm.

Overgeneration discussions continue

BPA is engaging the region in discussions about how to handle the occasional oversupply of power caused by high water. This effort responds to high Columbia River flows last June, when BPA and others took steps to avoid harming fish because of excess spill. BPA's goal is to have more solutions in place and functioning for the next spring runoff, beginning April 1.

BPA hosted a workshop in December to review suggestions from customers and others. For example, BPA is working with a regional Transmission Utilization Group to explore ways to increase usable intertie transmission capacity to California. The agency is also conferring with Columbia Basin irrigators on how they might time water withdrawals to utilize some excess power.

BPA also proposed to conduct environmental redispatch as a last resort when necessary to comply with the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Environmental redispatch would substitute free federal hydropower for other generation in BPA's balancing authority area. BPA will request comments in early 2011 on draft environmental redispatch business practices and a draft record of decision.

BPA also said it will not pay parties to replace their generation with free federal hydropower. While this is not an issue for thermal generators, which typically have an economic incentive to shut down in exchange for low-cost or free federal hydropower, wind projects that receive Production Tax Credits or Renewable Energy Credits might be financially affected. BPA is analyzing the scope

of the potential financial impact of environmental redispach on wind project owners and will share a draft, peer-reviewed analysis with interested parties in January.

BPA is establishing a mail list for customers and members of the public who want to follow the issue. Interested

parties can sign up by e-mailing kolynam@bpa.gov or by going to the Columbia River high water management page at www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Bonneville Environmental Foundation contract [Regionwide]

BPA and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation have executed a replacement contract in response to customer concerns about an earlier contract. The contract provides BPA funding for BEF programs that complement BPA's work in energy efficiency, demand response, renewable resources and fish and wildlife habitat protection. Contract provisions for supplemental payments or increases above inflation have been deleted. The new contract also contains other revisions, including a shorter term, in response to public comments. The contract, exhibits and record of decision are posted at www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/RODS/2010/.

2012 BPA Rate Proceeding [Regionwide]

BPA and parties to the transmission portion of the BP-12 rate proceeding reached a partial settlement in December. The partial settlement extends existing transmission rates and two required ancillary service rates into the 2012–2013 rate period. Excluded from the settlement are other ancillary service rates and the rates BPA charges for use of the Montana Intertie. These services will be litigated in the rate case. In November, BPA released an initial rate proposal for an 8.5 percent average wholesale power rate increase. Interested parties who are not parties to the rate case may provide public comment through Feb. 18 at www.bpa.gov/comment. BPA expects to issue a single draft record of decision for power and transmission rates in June and a final ROD in July. Rates will go into effect Oct. 1, 2011. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/.

Energy Efficiency post-2011 Phase 2 proposal [Regionwide]

Five workgroups provided recommendations to BPA on the implementation of energy efficiency programs as part of Phase 2 of the Post-2011 process. BPA is considering these recommendations and plans to release a proposal for public comment in mid-Jan. The proposal will provide guidance to BPA on program implementation. There will be a series of public meetings during the comment period. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

West Swan Valley land acquisition [Lake County, Mont.]

BPA provided funding to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to purchase a conservation easement from The Nature Conservancy on 4,477 acres of the Swan Valley in northwestern Montana. The Swan Valley was historically managed for commercial timber harvest. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/fact_sheets/10fs/West_Swan_Valley--revised_DEC_2010.pdf.

Yakama Nation – Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project [Chelan and Okanogan Counties, Wash.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Mid-Columbia_Coho_Restoration_Project/.

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

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grande_Ronde/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

REP-12 Rate Proceeding

BPA published Dec. 16 a notice in the Federal Register announcing the commencement of the Residential Exchange Program Settlement Agreement Proceeding (REP-12). The Federal Register notice summarizes the REP-12 initial proposal. BPA is conducting the formal rate proceeding to review the terms and conditions of a proposed 17-year settlement of REP issues prior to determining whether to implement the terms of the settlement in the agency's 2012–2013 power rates. Settlement would resolve the litigation over the current REP in exchange for a defined stream of REP benefits to the investor-owned utilities and a defined payment obligation for the agency's preference utilities. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/current.cfm. Interested parties who are not parties to the rate case may provide public comment through March 8 at www.bpa.gov/comment.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project [Oregon and Washington]

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line from a new substation near Castle Rock, Wash., to a new substation near BPA's Troutdale Substation, Troutdale, Ore. A draft EIS is scheduled for fall 2011 followed by a formal comment period. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/i5.

Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project [Wasco County, Ore., and Klickitat County, Wash.]

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line between BPA's existing Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Ore., and a new substation (Knight) under an existing BPA line near Goldendale, Wash. BPA issued the proposed project draft EIS in December and will accept public comment through Jan. 28. BPA will hold public meetings in this month in The Dalles and Goldendale, Ore. [SEE CALENDAR]. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy-Knight/.

Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild [Lane and Linn counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild approximately 32 miles of a 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. A draft EIS is expected in summer 2011. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/albany-eugene.

Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project [Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line between the new BPA Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County and BPA's Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County, Wash. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/centralferry/omo.

Hooper Springs Transmission Project [Caribou County, Idaho]

BPA is proposing a new 115-kilovolt transmission line and a new 138/115-kV substation, called Hooper Springs Substation, in Caribou County, Idaho. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/hoopersprings.

Walla Walla-Tucannon River Transmission Line Rebuild [Walla Walla and Columbia counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 47-mile Walla Walla-Tucannon River 115-kilovolt transmission line. The agency will produce a preliminary EA this winter. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/.

Bandon-Rogue No.1 Transmission Line Rebuild [Coos and Curry counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 115-kilovolt wood-pole Bandon-Rogue line. The agency will produce a preliminary EA this winter. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/.

Grand Coulee Dam Line Replacement [Okanogan, Grant and Douglas counties, Wash.]

The Bureau of Reclamation asked BPA to construct six new 500-kilovolt overhead transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam to replace aging underground lines between the dam's third powerhouse and the 500-kV spreading yard. BPA expects to release a draft EA this winter. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Coulee/.

Juniper Canyon II Wind Interconnection Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., asked BPA to interconnect up to 101 megawatts from the proposed Juniper Canyon II Wind Project. To interconnect the project, BPA would build a new substation, the Wood Creek Substation, along an existing BPA transmission line near Roosevelt, Wash. BPA will complete a ROD this winter. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/junipercanyonII.

Radar Ridge Wind Project Interconnection [Pacific County, Wash.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Radar_Ridge_Wind_Project/.

Whistling Ridge Energy Project [Skamania County, Wash.]

For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/whistling.

Horn Butte Wind Project [Gilliam and Morrow counties, Ore.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Horn_Butte_Wind_Project/.

Antelope Mountain Communication Project [Deschutes County, Ore.]

For information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/docs/2010/.

Transmission Services Facility Project [Vancouver, Wash.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/pdf/Transmission_Services_September_2009.pdf.

FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program [Okanogan County, Wash.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Juniper Canyon I Wind Interconnection Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Juniper_Canyon_Wind/.

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

For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=albe.

McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project [Sherman and Umatilla counties, Ore., Klickitat and Benton counties, Wash.]

For information, go to www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.

Leaning Juniper II-Jones Canyon Substation Expansion Wind Interconnection Project [Gilliam County, Ore.]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Leaning_Juniper/.

Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Reconstruction [Bonneville and Bingham counties, Idaho]

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Palisades/.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project public meetings

- **Jan. 11**, 4 to 7 p.m., Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, 3223 Bret Clodfelter Way, The Dalles, Ore.
- **Jan. 12**, 4 to 7 p.m., Goldendale High School, 525 E. Simcoe Drive, Goldendale, Wash.

In case of severe weather, call 800-622-4519 to ensure the meeting has not been rescheduled

Draft WIT 2.0 project introduction

- **Jan. 13**, 9 a.m. to noon, General Services Administration auditorium, 911 N.E. 11th Street, Portland, Ore.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

- **Jan. 28**, Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project

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.

