

Journal

June 2011

High river flows prompt BPA action

High seasonal river flows and hydroelectric generation led BPA to issue an interim decision May 13 to temporarily limit output from non-hydropower resources. The decision allows BPA to safeguard protected fish and assure reliable energy delivery without shifting extra costs to BPA electric customers.

BPA issued the Environmental Redispatch policy to help cope with runoff from the largest snowpack in years. High water and hydroelectric output combined with low nighttime energy demand led BPA to first implement the policy May 18. BPA is posting updates on generation limits at www.bpa.gov/go/afterhours.

Under the policy, BPA first limits all coal, natural gas and other thermal generation to minimum levels required for grid stability and safety. As a last resort, BPA then limits wind power generation. BPA replaces any reduced thermal and wind generation with free hydropower from federal dams on the Columbia River system.

The interim policy, which will remain in place until March 20, 2012, gives BPA the tools to match power generation to demand, which is necessary for dependable operation of the power grid.

“This was an extremely difficult decision for me. Despite months of searching through a robust public process, there was no good choice here,” said BPA Administrator Steve Wright. “I believe we have adopted the option that best preserves reliability, protects salmon and avoids increased costs on average to Northwest ratepayers.”

Reducing hydroelectric generation in high water conditions sends additional water through dam spillways. While some spill of water can help young salmon and steelhead migrate downstream, too much can cause potentially harmful levels of dissolved gases in the river.

“We’re fortunate in the Northwest to have extraordinary renewable hydropower and wind energy resources, but occasionally we have to adjust when nature gives us too much,” Wright said. “Wind remains an important part of our clean energy future and is growing quickly. This is an

interim step, which appears unavoidable at this point to keep the power grid in balance while the region develops long-term solutions.”

BPA and other agencies will closely monitor river conditions and will lift any limits on power generation as soon as they are no longer needed. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/.

BPA shares new wind forecast

Wind energy producers and anyone else can now view a forecast of wind power generation in the BPA transmission system over the coming three days.

The wind power forecast developed by BPA’s weather team will help BPA’s power managers and wind energy producers anticipate and adjust to changes in wind generation. Such forecasts are usually considered proprietary and rarely shared publicly. BPA opted to make its forecast available to help support the integration of rapidly growing amounts of wind power into the Northwest grid.

Better forecasts can help BPA manage hydroelectric power to account for changes in wind generation, especially in periods such as this spring when high runoff is boosting hydroelectric generation.

Watch us work

- See how BPA engineers are designing better transmission towers and saving millions of dollars in the process.
- Watch BPA, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and other partners work together to help recover salmon and steelhead on the Umatilla River in eastern Oregon.
- Go to www.bpa.gov/go/news, or visit our Facebook page and YouTube channel to learn more.



The forecast shows anticipated wind generation in BPA's system for each hour over the next three days, based on a series of weather models. It also shows the minimum and maximum wind generation expected each hour during the same three days. The forecast is updated each hour and posted publicly 20 minutes after the hour. The generation forecast is available at <http://transmission.bpa.gov/Business/Operations/Wind/forecast/forecast.aspx>. For additional wind information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/WindPower/.

BPA, BC Hydro seek storage agreement

BPA and BC Hydro are pursuing a new long-term agreement to use additional reservoir storage on the upper Columbia River in Canada to provide safer flows for protected fish and support power generation. Such an agreement would also provide flexibility to control river flows during high runoff periods.

BPA is holding open-house meetings to explain the terms. See the Public Involvement section for details.

Canadian authorities constructed Mica Dam in the 1970s to provide 7 million acre-feet of water storage as outlined in the Columbia River Treaty of 1964, plus another 5 million acre-feet, termed non-Treaty storage. BPA and BC Hydro have stored water in the non-Treaty space under a series of long- and short-term agreements since 1977. Absent an agreement, BPA has no ability to use non-Treaty storage space.

The proposed terms would benefit threatened and endangered fish by providing flexibility for BPA to store excess water in the spring and then release that water in the summer when Columbia River flows are low. The proposal would also provide additional flexibility to reduce flows and spill during periods when dissolved gas levels caused by spill exceed state standards.

The power benefits of the proposed terms include giving BPA the flexibility to store water in the spring — beyond what is needed for fish — and releasing it in the summer when it has greater economic value to Northwest ratepayers. This summer BPA and BC Hydro plan to begin negotiating a legal contract based on the proposed terms. If negotiations are successful, a new non-Treaty storage agreement could be completed by early fall. The new agreement would begin around fall 2011 and continue until Sept. 15, 2024.

For more information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Non-Treaty_Storage_Agreement/.

New tool connects EE professionals

Energy industry professionals throughout the Northwest can plug in to share information and learn the latest energy efficiency best practices thanks to Conduit — the region's first online energy efficiency collaboration tool.

The new tool, introduced in May by Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and BPA, seeks to harness the collective and diverse knowledge, experience and passion of individuals who are working to maximize energy efficiency in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Conduit will increase collaboration and help the region meet its energy efficiency goals.

Conduit provides a collaborative workspace where participants can share and comment on energy efficiency best practices, discuss current issues, learn about emerging technologies, keep up with current trends, network with their peers and more.

To learn more or to create an account, visit www.conduitnw.org.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Environmental redispach [Regionwide]

BPA issued an interim environmental redispach policy May 13. The policy is the agency's last-resort protocol to protect fish and maintain system reliability during periods of temporary power oversupply. The agency first implemented the policy May 18. BPA continues to work closely with stakeholders in the region to find long-term solutions to this issue. Each business day, BPA posts situation updates at <http://info.bpa.gov/afterhours.aspx>. The agency also hosts regular conference calls each Friday from 1 to 2 p.m., to update interested parties on system conditions through the spring runoff period. Check the BPA event calendar at www.bpa.gov/go/calendar for phone bridge information. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/.

FISH AND WILDLIFE — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Springfield Sockeye Hatchery Project [Bingham County, Idaho]

BPA will prepare a Supplement Analysis and host a public meeting in June on the proposed Springfield Sockeye Hatchery Project. This project is part of Phase 2 of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Snake River Sockeye Captive Brood Program. The purpose is to develop the Springfield Hatchery to increase production of Snake River sockeye smolts, resulting in adult returns that would provide sufficient broodstock to meet re-colonization goals at Redfish, Petit and Alturas lakes. BPA will accept comments on the proposal through July 14. [SEE CALENDAR]

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

BPA is planning to release a draft EIS in June 2011. 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/.

Klickitat Hatchery Program [Klickitat and Yakima counties, Wash.]

BPA is planning to release a Draft EIS in early summer 2011. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Klickitat_Hatchery_Program/.

POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

Residential Exchange Program [Regionwide]

As of May 31, the Residential Exchange Program settlement agreement had reached the 75 percent threshold for signatures. BPA sent a revised settlement agreement April 22 to its customers and others for their consideration and action. The revised agreement incorporates all the provisions of the original agreement except for the later deadline for signatures – June 3 – and lower threshold of BPA preference customer transition high water mark – 75 percent. Since the settlement agreement reached the threshold, the REP-12 proceeding will continue. The BPA administrator will decide whether to sign the agreement in July. BPA's ex parte rules prohibit BPA employees from engaging in off-the-record communications with non-BPA/DOE staff on this 7(i) proceeding. The revised agreement is posted at www.bpa.gov/secure/RateCase/openfile.aspx?fileName=Notice+of+Posting+-+Proposed+Form+of+Revised+REP+Settlement+Agreement.pdf&contentType=application%2fpdf.

TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

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

BPA and the Bureau of Reclamation recently held a joint open house on the release of the preliminary EA. The comment period is open through June 10. BPA will produce a final EA this. Information regarding the project, the preliminary EA, and a video of the proposed project can be seen at www.bpa.gov/go/coulee.

Vegetation Management Operations [Marion, Polk and Clackamas counties, Ore.]

As the heavy vegetation growth season for 2011 gets under way, BPA has stepped up its vegetation management operations along rights of way in the Salem area. The agency engaged local residents and landowners by hosting several public meetings in Keizer and West Salem. BPA collaborated closely with the City of Wilsonville to address questions about specific trees designated for removal, and with Marion County officials to deliver wood products leftover from tree removal to low income families as heating fuel.

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 released a preliminary EA in February for public review and comment through March 11. BPA will produce a final EA and a decision in May 2011. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/.

Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project

[Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties, Wash.]

BPA will build a new 500-kilovolt transmission line between BPA's Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County and BPA's Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County, Wash. BPA released the ROD in March. Construction could begin this spring. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/centralferrylomo.

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.

Creston-Bell Transmission Line Rebuild [Lincoln and Spokane counties, Wash.]

BPA accepted comments in April on the proposed rebuild of approximately 54 miles of 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. The agency held public meetings in March. For information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Creston_Bell/.

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. The final EIS is expected in early summer, followed by ROD in late summer. 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.

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 spring. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/.

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.]

BPA and Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council are planning to release a final EIS this summer 2011. 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

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

BPA released a final EA and FONSI in May and decided to rebuild the 115-kilovolt wood-pole Bandon-Rogue line. BPA began some access road work in May and will begin transmission line structure work in June. Danger tree removal will take place after August 15. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/.

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

BPA released a FONSI in May and decided to proceed with the project. Construction started in May and will be complete in fall or winter 2011.

For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/.

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

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

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.

Springfield Hatchery public meeting

- June 14, 4 to 7 p.m., Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Southeast Regional Office, 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, Idaho.

Non-Treaty Storage Agreement public meetings:

- June 1, 4 to 7 p.m., Metro Regional Center, 600 N.E. Grand Ave., Room 501, Portland, Ore.
- June 2, 4 to 7 p.m., PACCAR Inc. Central Library, Meeting Room 6, 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, Wash.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

- June 10 – Grand Coulee Dam line replacement
- July 14 – Springfield Hatchery

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.

