



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Northwestern Division



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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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U.S. Entity recognizes 50th Anniversary of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada

Portland, Ore. – Today marks the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the Columbia River Treaty, an international agreement between Canada and the United States for the cooperative development and operation of the water resources of the Columbia River Basin for the benefit of both countries.

The Columbia River Treaty has been a significant driver behind diverse economic, public safety and ecological uses of the Columbia River. As a direct result of the Treaty, four storage dams were built: Mica, Arrow and Duncan dams in British Columbia, Canada; and Libby Dam in Montana. These four projects more than doubled the storage capacity of the Columbia River system, increased control of the river flow, thereby decreasing the risk of major flooding events downstream, and provided opportunities for releasing water at times needed for power generation and other downstream benefits such as fisheries and water supply. For the past 50 years, Treaty operations have helped prevent major flood damages and provide for economic development across the basin.

The U.S. Entity, which consists of the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division Engineer, is charged with formulating and carrying out the operating arrangements necessary to implement the Columbia River Treaty in concert with the Canadian Entity.

“We appreciate the extensive coordination and collaboration we’ve enjoyed with BPA and the Canadian Entity on this important treaty over the past 50 years,” said Brigadier General John Kem, Commander of the Corps’ Northwestern Division, “This extensive cooperation with Canada and U.S. regional interests has allowed us to achieve common Treaty goals and also to respond to the changing needs in the Columbia River Basin,” added Elliot Mainzer, BPA Administrator.

Looking to build on the past success of the Treaty, the U.S. Entity led a three-year review process that culminated in a regional recommendation regarding the future of the Treaty. That recommendation, available at www.crt2014-2024review.gov, was delivered to the U.S. Department of State Dec. 13, 2013, and is undergoing a formal review by the U.S. Government.

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