

BPA NEWS

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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BPA promotes two executives to key senior positions

Portland, Ore. – John Hairston will be the Bonneville Power Administration’s new chief operating officer following the retirement of Janet Herrin on Sept. 30. Hairston has served in numerous leadership roles throughout his 28 years at BPA, most recently as the agency’s first chief administrative officer.

Robin Furrer, the vice president of Transmission Field Services for 14 years, will be BPA’s new chief administrative officer.

Hairston to play key role in delivery of agency strategic goals

In his new role, Hairston will be responsible for Power Services; Transmission Services; Environment, Fish and Wildlife; and Customer Support Services. He will also oversee the Business Transformation Office and play a critical role in BPA’s sustained focus on disciplined cost-containment and grid modernization.

“I selected John four years ago to establish the Chief Administrative Office at Bonneville because I knew he had the right skillset and experience to help BPA move forward through challenging times,” says BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer. “He has proven his ability to lead change, and I’m confident he’ll continue to help BPA achieve the ambitious goals we have set in our strategic plan.”

Hairston’s focus as COO will be on maintaining BPA’s competitive position as the agency approaches negotiations for new, long-term wholesale power contracts with its more than 140 Northwest electric utilities. Other priorities include continuing to strengthen customer responsiveness, and modernizing assets and system operations.

“This is an important time in BPA’s history and an exciting time to be taking on this role,” Hairston said. “I look forward to building on the continuous improvement of our business operations and working closely with Robin to leverage the full value of our internal services in support of BPA’s strategy.”

Hairston holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Southern University, a master’s degree in urban studies from Portland State University and a Juris Doctor from the Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law. He also holds the certification of Compliance and Ethics Professional from the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics.



Furrer brings new perspective to CAO position

Furrer has been the vice president of Transmission Field Services since 2005. In that role she was responsible for managing field operations, maintenance and construction of BPA's high-voltage transmission system, and providing safe, reliable and cost-effective service to customers. With more than 900 employees spread across BPA's 300,000 square-mile service area, Field Services is the agency's largest, most geographically diverse organization.

"Robin is a strong and highly effective leader who carries the important perspective of Transmission Services into the front office while helping to further strengthen the agency as a whole," said Mainzer. "I am very happy to have her join our senior leadership team."

Furrer will be responsible for BPA's Human Resources Service Center; Information Technology; Safety; Security and Continuity of Operations; Supply Chain Services; Workplace Services; and BPA's Diversity and Inclusion Office.

"I'm excited about the path BPA is on, and I'm honored to be a part of it," Furrer says. "The goals we have set out for ourselves are ambitious, from becoming the safest utility in North America to creating the type of work environment that retains and attracts a best-in-class workforce. I believe they are the right goals for our people, and I am committed to helping us get there."

Furrer joined BPA in 1991 as a transmission project engineer and moved to the Transmission Field Services organization in 1999. She holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Portland State University.

About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale, carbon-free hydropower from 31 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. It also markets the output of the region's only nuclear plant. BPA delivers this power to more than 140 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage power lines and 262 substations, and provides transmission service to more than 500 customers. In all, BPA provides nearly a third of the power generated in the Northwest. To mitigate the impacts of the federal dams, BPA implements a fish and wildlife program that includes working with its partners to make the federal dams safer for fish passage. It also pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain safe, affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest. www.bpa.gov

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