

Journal

March 2013

Mainzer to serve as acting deputy



Elliot Mainzer, the executive vice president of Corporate Strategy since 2008, began serving as BPA's acting deputy administrator on Feb. 25.

"As I'm called upon to broaden my attention both externally and internally, the agency needs the deputy administrator role to be filled immediately," says Bill Drummond, who

served as deputy administrator before being sworn in as the agency's administrator on Feb. 7. "I greatly appreciate Elliot stepping up to take on this new responsibility."

"Along with his strategic acumen and broad background in the utility industry, Elliot has leadership experience in the agency's corporate functions, as well as in both the Power and Transmission business lines," Drummond adds. "His communication and collaboration skills will be especially valuable to the agency as he takes on the acting deputy role."

As the executive vice president of Corporate Strategy, Mainzer directed BPA's strategic planning and coordinated cross-agency strategy initiatives. He has also had responsibility for emerging regional and national strategic issues, such as wind integration, market design and integrated resource and transmission planning.

Mainzer has also served as the manager of Transmission Policy and Strategy, as the Power Services trading floor manager and as acting vice president of Bulk Marketing.

Before joining BPA in 2002, Mainzer established and managed Enron's renewable power desk in Portland, Ore.

A native of San Francisco, Mainzer earned Master of Business Administration and Master of Environmental Studies degrees from Yale University.

BPA launches EE research tool

To promote knowledge and resource sharing, BPA has developed *E3TNW.org*, an online database designed to help electric utilities, researchers, manufacturers, institutions and industry leaders gauge and evaluate energy technologies.

"E3TNW.org will help the region move energy-saving technologies from the drawing board into Northwest homes and businesses," explains Jack Callahan, BPA mechanical engineer. "Collaboration and sharing information about research is a growing trend among leaders in the energy efficiency industry."

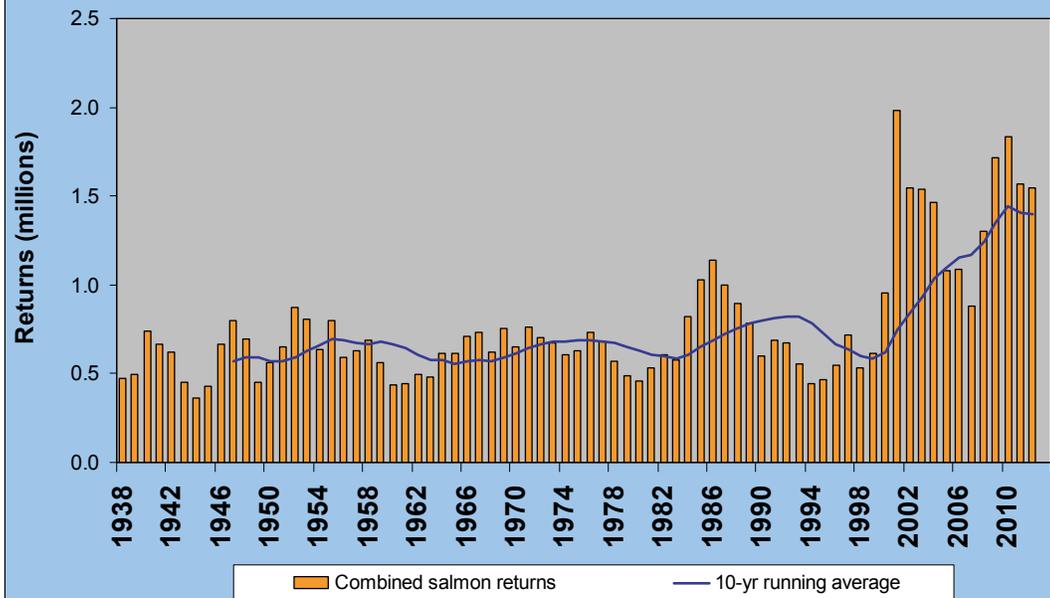
BPA's Energy Efficiency Emerging Technology Team (E3T) and Washington State University's Energy Program collaborated in the development of the database.

It allows users to browse, search and submit information about viable technologies to help coordinate and collaborate research with regional and national experts. The site currently features nearly 400 emerging technologies across all sectors, including information about potential energy savings, cost benefits, non-energy benefits, ease of adoption and technology readiness. It also features emerging tech ratings, expert opinions and a "follow" feature to track the progress of specific technologies.

The screenshot shows the E3T website header with navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, DATABASE, TAG PORTAL, WEBINARS, and SUBMIT NEW ET. Below the header, there is a section for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with a description of its role. A 'Featured TAGs' section displays three categories: 2012 LED Lighting (with an image of a light fixture), 2011 Energy Management (with a smart thermostat image), and 2010 HVAC (with an image of a furnace/boiler unit).



Adult and jack salmon/steelhead returns to Bonneville Dam



variations is what continues to challenge the experts who study and forecast salmon returns.

In 2012, for instance, state fisheries managers forecast a huge spring chinook run, but the returns undershot forecasts by half. Meanwhile, the return of 515,000 adult sockeye was by far the largest on record since 1938.

There are 13 stocks, known as Evolutionarily Significant Units, of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin and up to 28 individual populations that originate from different tributaries in the basin within each of those 13 units. Juvenile coho,

BPA's E3T program is a collaborative effort between BPA, Northwest publicly-owned utilities, manufacturers, researchers, universities and experts to identify promising new technologies with the greatest potential benefit to the region. E3T also performs quality assurance tests, subsidies for energy-efficient equipment, and incentives for manufacturers to develop better products.

Making sense of salmon returns

While the majority of Endangered Species Act-listed stocks have increased in abundance since the 1990s, the returns for each species vary greatly between individual years. Recent studies may help explain why.

In January, state fishery managers released a preseason forecast for 2013 returns of salmon and steelhead to the Columbia River. While returns in 2010 and 2011 were among the highest since recordkeeping began, forecasts for 2013 are down for some stocks. At the same time, runs of most Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead have increased since the ESA listings in the 1990s. Fish returns appear to be on the upswing.

Is there a trend, and what does it mean?

"All natural populations vary in abundance from one year to the next," says BPA fisheries biologist Jason Sweet. Trying to understand the causes of these

steelhead, chinook and sockeye all migrate at different times of the year and to different parts of the ocean. They return to spawn at different times of the year and to different parts of the basin.

Even within species, there is significant variation. The sockeye that ballooned the return in 2012 came from the Okanogan in northern Washington and Canada, buoyed by a careful water management program among utilities there to help keep spawning areas submerged while eggs incubated. At the same time, the Snake River sockeye numbers, after three successive years of record-breaking returns, were down a bit in both 2011 and 2012.

University of Washington scientists have been able to reconstruct salmon runs using sediment cores from sockeye lakes in Alaska. They show that this variation among salmon runs in the same basin was true hundreds of years before harvest, dams and habitat encroachment.

This is one reason biologists never look at one year in isolation to assess the state of the salmon. Instead, they compare returns in any single year with rolling averages over several years — 10-year and four-year rolling averages are typical.

To learn more about salmon returns, including why ocean conditions are crucial, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/news.

Science Lab videos launched to inspire kids

BPA launched two new education videos designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. The videos are part of BPA's "Science Lab" series that features energetic BPA engineers conducting simple experiments with things you find around the house.

The new episodes are "How to Build a Turbine," which challenges kids to create their own energy-generating turbine device using paper cups, tape and a shop vacuum; and "The Great Marble Drop," that tests young people's ability to design an apparatus that will transport a marble and drop it on a target.

There's no right way to conduct these experiments. Rather, students are challenged to use scientific inquiry and engineering design to solve the problem. "We want kids to work together to devise solutions, test them and then try again," explains co-host Mike Hulse, who guides viewers through the experiments with the help of fellow BPA electrical engineer Kellie Robinson. The ability to study a problem, develop a hypothesis and test and refine a solution is at the heart of many engineering and scientific careers.

BPA produces its Science Lab videos to connect students to science and engineering. Recent statistics show that science and engineering jobs are growing at twice the rate of non-technical careers, but that only 4 percent of high school freshmen are going on to graduate from college with those degrees.

The video series, which BPA launched with its "How to Build a Motor" video in 2010, illustrates electricity-related phenomena, such as electromagnetism and kinetic and mechanical energy. They also provide a steady diet of the scientific and engineering method — try, test, fail and try again. The videos can be used by middle and high school teachers in class, or teachers can watch the videos and duplicate the simple, hands-on experiments with students. The series also targets kids and parents who are looking for experiments to do at a science fair or at home.

BPA funds activities and a variety of programs that support science, technology, engineering and math. To learn more about the agency's educational materials and programs, or to request an in-class presentation, visit BPA's Community and Education Web page at www.bpa.gov/goto/Education.

BPA estimates oversupply potential

BPA has estimated the amount of wind generation likely to be displaced with federal hydropower during the upcoming oversupply season, April through July 2013. A summary of the findings is available at www.bpa.gov/goto/oversupply. BPA estimates a 50 percent probability of no wind displacement in 2013. However, the analysis shows that under certain conditions a significant amount of displacement is possible.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Oversupply Management Protocol [Regionwide]

BPA is reviewing comments received on proposed revisions to BPA's tariff (Attachment P) for the Oversupply Management Protocol. BPA plans to refile the revised Attachment P with FERC in early March. In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has granted BPA's request to extend the deadline for submitting an OMP cost allocation methodology. The filing is now due 30 days after BPA submits its final oversupply rate (OS-14) decision to FERC, expected in early September. For information, including an estimate of the potential for oversupply in 2013, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/oversupply.

BP-14 and OS-14 Rate Cases [Regionwide]

BPA is holding two rate proceedings to set rates for the 2014–2015 fiscal years. Power and transmission rates will be set in one docket, BP-14. A separate docket, OS-14, proposes rates to recover the

costs BPA incurs under its Oversupply Management Protocol. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Lolo Creek permanent weir fish trapping facility [Clearwater County, Idaho]

BPA is proposing to fund the replacement of a 10-year-old seasonal fish weir. BPA accepted comments on the preliminary EA through March 1 and is now reviewing the comments and determining how to proceed. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/lolocreekweir.

Kootenai River Native Fish Aquaculture Program [Boundary County, Idaho]

BPA released a preliminary EA in February and is accepting comments through March 18. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/kootenaiaquaculture.

TRANSMISSION

I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project [Cowlitz and Clark counties, Wash., and Multnomah County, Ore.]

The comment period on the draft EIS closes March 25. All comments received will be posted on the project website. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5 or call 800-230-6593.

Midway-Moxee Line Rebuild [Benton and Yakima counties, Wash.]

BPA is accepting comments through March 8 on a proposal to rebuild the 34-mile, 115-kV transmission line from the Midway Substation to the Moxee Substation in Washington. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/MidwayMoxee.

Grand Coulee-Creston Line Rebuild [Grant and Lincoln counties, Wash.]

BPA is accepting comments through March 27 on a proposal to rebuild nearly 28 miles of the Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1 115-kV transmission line between Coulee Dam and Creston, Wash. BPA will hold a scoping meeting on March 13. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild. [SEE CALENDAR]

Lane-Wendson Line Rebuild [Lane County Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 41-mile, 115 kV Lane-Wendson No. 1 transmission line between Eugene and Florence, Ore. BPA will open a 30-day comment period in March and host scoping meetings in April. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/LaneWendson.

Vantage-Pomona Heights Line Interconnection [Yakima and Grant counties, Wash.]

Pacific Power proposes to construct, operate and maintain a new 230-kV transmission line from Pacific Power's Pomona Heights Substation east of Selah, Wash., to the BPA Vantage Substation east of Wanapum Dam in Grant County, Wash. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead federal agency responsible for the preparation of an EIS. BPA is a cooperating agency on the EIS and will decide whether to interconnect the line. BLM is accepting comments on the Draft EIS through March 8. Go to www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/vph230/ to submit comments. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/VantagePomonaHeights.

Precedent Transmission Service Agreement Reform [Regionwide]

The project team has finished its evaluation of proposals submitted by BPA customers to withdraw or modify their PTSAs. BPA expects to update customers and interested parties on new developments by mid-March. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/NOS.

Network Open Season and Generation Interconnection Reform [Regionwide]

By late March, BPA expects to update customers and interested parties about initial plans for restarting the Network Open Season process during 2013. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/NOS.

Hooper Springs Transmission Line Construction Project [Caribou County, Idaho]

BPA expects to publish a draft EIS by early March and will accept comments through April 15. The project team will host a public meeting in Soda Springs, Idaho, in early April to introduce the DEIS, listen to stakeholder feedback and seek public comments. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings. [SEE CALENDAR]

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on other projects under environmental review is available at www.bpa.gov/goto/NEPA.

For information about the National Environmental Policy Act in general, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/EnvironmentalPlanning.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild public meeting:

- **March 13**, 4 to 7 p.m., Wilbur Community Center, 5 S.W. Railroad Ave., Wilbur, Wash.

Hooper Springs Transmission Line Construction Project public meeting:

- **April 3**, 5 to 8 p.m., Soda Springs High School, 300 N. First St., Soda Springs, Idaho

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Submit comments to www.bpa.gov/comment.

- **March 8**, Midway-Moxee Line Rebuild
- **March 8**, Vantage-Pomona Heights Line Interconnection
- **March 18**, Kootenai River Native Fish Aquaculture Program
- **March 25**, I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project
- **March 27**, Grand Coulee-Creston Line Rebuild
- **April 15**, Hooper Springs Transmission Construction 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.

