



Journal

September 2013

Draft plan details actions to benefit fish

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and BPA — collectively known as the federal action agencies — have outlined specific actions they will take between 2014 and 2018 to protect Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead affected by the operation of federal dams on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers.

The draft implementation plan describes actions in hydro, habitat, hatcheries, predation management and research, monitoring and evaluation to meet requirements of NOAA Fisheries' biological opinion for operation of the dams.

Work under this BiOp, the largest effort of its kind ever undertaken in the Columbia Basin, is based in sound science. Most populations of wild Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead have increased in abundance since the first listings in the 1990s.

In July, the action agencies released a draft comprehensive evaluation that assessed biological results under the first five years of the 2008/2010 BiOp. The draft implementation plan builds on accomplishments and lessons outlined in the evaluation and incorporates new information to address emerging issues, such as cormorant predation.

The comprehensive evaluation showed that the agencies, working with federal, state and local partners, have met or exceeded tributary habitat goals for more than half the salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia Basin. Performance testing of juvenile fish passage at the mainstem dams indicates that the fish passage projects that have been tested are on track to meet the BiOp performance standards of 96 percent survival for spring migrating fish and 93 percent survival for summer migrants.

NOAA Fisheries will draw upon findings from the draft comprehensive evaluation as well as actions contained in the draft implementation plan to produce a supplemental FCRPS BiOp for 2014.

The draft plan is open for public comment through Sept. 23. Copies are available at www.salmonrecovery.gov.

New transmission project moves forward

BPA is moving forward with construction of the Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project in



The draft 2014–2018 implementation plan sets out fish passage improvements and spill operations to meet BiOp performance standards of 96 percent survival for juvenile spring migrating fish and 93 percent for summer migrants. Bonneville Dam (pictured) is one of the eight Federal Columbia River Power System dams required to meet the standards. Testing to date shows all eight are on track to meet survival guidelines by 2018.

Washington. The 38-mile, 500-kilovolt line will connect the new Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County to the existing Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County. Construction is set to begin in spring of 2014. Energization is expected in December 2015.

BPA identified the need for the project through its Network Open Season process for granting new transmission service requests. But the project was put on hold in August 2011 because of uncertainty regarding the readiness of customer utilities. Now, a recent agreement between Puget Sound Energy and Portland General Electric gives BPA the confidence to move forward. As part of the deal, PSE will transfer 267 megawatts of energy from phase two of the Lower Snake River Wind facility, which PGE has renamed the Tucannon River Wind Farm, and transmission service rights to PGE.

“Our Network Open Season process was designed to help BPA build the right facilities in the right place at the right time backed by strong commercial agreements,” said Elliot Mainzer, BPA acting administrator. “With this project, we are able to help PGE meet its renewable



resource needs at minimal cost to existing network customers.”

BPA completed an environmental review and a preliminary engineering design in early 2011. The agency issued a record of decision to build the line in March 2011.

BPA names VP of Engineering and Technical Services

BPA has selected Richard Shaheen as its Transmission Services vice president of Engineering and Technical Services. Shaheen, a registered professional engineer in Florida, recently served as senior director for Engineering and Technical Services at Florida Power and Light, the state’s largest utility. He will begin his new role at BPA in September.

Florida Power and Light has 4.6 million customers. It is the principal subsidiary of NextEra Energy, a Fortune 500 company and the largest generator in the U.S. of renewable energy from the wind and sun with more than 70,000 miles of power lines.

As Florida Power’s senior director for Engineering and Technical Services, and previously leader of Distribution and Transmission Operations, Shaheen drove critical business initiatives in engineering and project management, process and technology improvements, system reliability, smart grid, environmental services, safety and compliance.

As leader of BPA’s Engineering and Technical Services organization, Shaheen will have responsibility for implementing Transmission Services’ \$500 million capital program, providing technical support for the transmission maintenance program and providing real property services to BPA. Additionally, he will serve as BPA’s principal engineer and key policy formulator, leading the design, material specification, coordination, project management and construction of major transmission infrastructure projects necessary to sustain and improve the reliability of the existing transmission system and incorporate new generation facilities.

Shaheen holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Florida and a master’s in business administration from Florida Atlantic University.

EPRI, BPA drive power innovation

The road to innovation can be long, winding and risky. That’s why BPA and the Electric Power Research Institute are carpooling.

An independent, nonprofit research organization founded in 1972, EPRI brings together a community of scientists, engineers and experts to help address challenges facing the electric industry. And for 75 years, BPA has been a

technical leader in the industry with countless innovations and patents under its belt. Along with other utilities and members, BPA and EPRI collaborate on major research initiatives for better energy technologies, safer practices and greater efficiency.

BPA is collaborating with EPRI on 15 of the 51 projects in its fiscal year 2013 research portfolio. But the partnership goes well beyond studies and projects. In 2005, BPA’s Technology Innovation Office pioneered a disciplined approach unique to the industry that ensures the agency is making the right investments in technology research and that projects stay on track. Now seen as a leader in R&D program management, BPA shares its best practices with other organizations, including EPRI.

BPA’s portfolio management starts with benchmarking against industry experts and includes a vigorous screening and review process with a schedule for project assessments known as stage gates, frequent internal and external communication and collaboration, project management training, and transparency of results. These steps and actions ensure that each project remains on course and helps the agency determine whether to continue, revise or terminate a project.

“We also develop technology roadmaps and rely on them as our playbook,” said Terry Oliver, BPA’s chief technology innovation officer and executive member of EPRI’s Research Advisory Committee. This process identifies capability gaps and points the agency toward technologies with the potential to resolve business challenges. “They help us chart our course and keep us focused on projects that deliver the most value to BPA,” Oliver added.

In a 2012 report, EPRI shared lessons learned from the roadmapping process, noting it “helps ensure that a team has access to technologies, personnel, best practices and other capabilities,” and provides “an effective communication tool” for the organization, regulators, vendors and consumers.

Earlier this year, BPA and EPRI met with transmission and research leaders from Consolidated Edison Company of New York, FirstEnergy, PJM, TVA, Western Area Power Administration and Xcel Energy to kick off a pilot process focused on developing a collaborative transmission technology roadmap.

“We’re establishing a process to help electric utilities and researchers target high-priority areas,” said electrical engineer Jeff Hildreth, BPA’s transmission technology roadmap lead.

The pilot models the best practice roadmapping process pioneered by Cambridge University, matured by Portland State University, and later adopted by BPA and companies such as Intel.

According to Oliver, the disciplined, results-oriented approach benefits the entire industry: “A good technology roadmap helps each organization make the most of every research dollar we spend.”

EPRI has also recognized a number of BPA research projects for promoting the advancement of technologies. In the past three years, EPRI has presented technology transfer awards to both of the agency’s recent heat pump projects and to a project that studied ways of reducing the corrosion of steel structures, including transmission towers, due to weather and other environmental exposures.

BPA seeks input on line rebuild

BPA is seeking comments on its proposal to rebuild the 26-mile Hills Creek-Lookout Point transmission line between Lowell and Oakridge in Lane County, Ore.

Routine maintenance has been performed on the 115-kilovolt line since it was built in 1953. Now, most of the 60-year-old structures are worn and need to be replaced. The project may also require improving access roads and acquiring or developing new access roads or trails.

The rebuild would reduce potential safety risks to the public and work crews. By rebuilding aging transmission lines when needed, BPA preserves the value and reliability of its transmission system.

“Right now is the best time to learn from residents about the area so we can consider concerns and input early in the project planning process,” said BPA project manager Richard Heredia. “The more detail we have from the start about natural resources, vegetation and property concerns, the better it is for the community and for the project. We want to hear from you.”

BPA will host a public meeting on Sept. 11 in Oakridge, Ore. Community members can ask questions, voice concerns and share local knowledge about potential impacts that the environmental study should address. This review provides BPA the necessary information to make well-informed decisions.

BPA will accept comments at www.bpa.gov/comment through Sept. 26. For project information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review [Regionwide]

BPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received thousands of comments on the working draft of the regional recommendation before the public comment period closed on Aug. 16. This working draft was the result of a multi-year, collaborative process between the U.S. Entity, regional sovereigns and the public. It provides a basis for further regional discussion with both sovereigns and stakeholders on this important matter. On Sept. 13, the U.S. Entity will host a meeting, open to all regional stakeholders, featuring U.S. State Department representatives. The meeting will cover four aspects of Columbia River system operations: hydropower; ecosystem; flood risk and navigation; and irrigation/water supply and recreation. The U.S. Entity anticipates releasing a final draft regional recommendation for stakeholder and public comment by Sept. 20. The final regional recommendation is due to the U.S. Department of State in December. To view the working draft recommendation, go to www.crt2014-2024review.gov. Submit comments to www.bpa.gov/comment. For more information, email U.S. Entity staff at treatyreview@bpa.gov or call BPA at 800-622-4519 or the Corps at 503-808-4510. **SEE CALENDAR**

OS-14 Rate Case [Regionwide]

In the OS-14 rate case, BPA will propose rates to recover the costs incurred under the Oversupply Management Protocol. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Draft 2014–2018 Implementation Plan for FCRPS Biological Opinion [Regionwide]

BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are accepting comments on a draft 2014–2018 implementation plan, which outlines specific actions to protect salmon and steelhead affected by the operation of federal hydropower dams on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers. The draft IP describes actions in hydro, habitat, hatcheries, predation management and research, monitoring and evaluation to meet requirements of NOAA Fisheries’ biological opinion. The draft IP is available for comment through Sept. 23. For information, go to www.salmonrecovery.gov. Submit comments to www.bpa.gov/comment.

Springfield Sockeye Hatchery [Bingham County, Idaho]

BPA and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will celebrate the completion of the Springfield Sockeye Hatchery on Sept. 6. The facility will be capable of rearing up to 1 million sockeye salmon smolts annually. It will contribute to a larger effort to restore endangered Snake River sockeye salmon to the Stanley Basin. For information, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Springfield_Sockeye_Hatchery/. **SEE CALENDAR**

TRANSMISSION

Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project [Walla Walla County, Wash.]

BPA will construct the 38-mile, 500-kV transmission line in Washington to connect the new Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County to the

existing Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County. BPA put the project on hold in August 2011, until it had certainty regarding the readiness of customer utilities. Construction will begin in spring of 2014. Energization is expected in December 2015. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/centralferry.

Montana to Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project [Spokane County, Wash.; Nez Perce, Clearwater and Shoshone counties, Idaho; Mineral, Sanders, Missoula and Powell counties, Mont.]

BPA is accepting comments through Oct. 31 on the addition of new substation site alternatives for the proposed Montana to Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project. BPA's consideration of the new substation site options is a result of an earlier public comment period on the proposed project, through which the additional sites were identified. BPA is proposing the system upgrades in response to customer requests for increased transmission service capacity from BPA's Garrison Substation in Western Montana to points west of the Cascades. The upgrades would help BPA accommodate the requests without having to build any new high-voltage transmission lines. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/M2W.

Hooper Springs Transmission Project [Caribou County, Idaho]

BPA will hold a project update meeting for the proposed Hooper Springs Transmission Project in Soda Springs, Idaho, on Sept. 5. BPA staff will describe the current alternatives, including a proposed reroute onto the Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/HooperSprings. **SEE CALENDAR**

Midway-Grandview Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project [Benton and Yakima counties, Wash.]

BPA proposes to rebuild and upgrade the existing 115-kV wood pole transmission line that runs from Midway Substation along the Columbia River, southwest to Grandview Substation. BPA will host a public scoping meeting in Grandview, Wash., on Oct. 16. A project website with more information will be available by late September. **SEE CALENDAR**

Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild [Lane County, Ore.]

BPA is accepting comments through Sept. 26 on a proposal to rebuild the 25-mile Hills Creek-Lookout Point 115-kV wood pole transmission line. A scoping meeting will be held on Sept. 11. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/HillsCreekLookoutPoint. **SEE CALENDAR**

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

BPA and its contractors are beginning work in the existing transmission line corridor along segments 49, 51 and 52 to collect information for the project. The information will help BPA refine the proposed design for the project and determine its potential impacts. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5 or call 800-230-6593.

Boyer-Tillamook Access Road Improvement Project [Tillamook and Yamhill counties, Ore.]

BPA expects to release a preliminary EA this summer on a project to improve a 13-mile portion of the access road system for the 115-kV Boyer-Tillamook No. 1 transmission line. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/BoyerTillamookAccessRoads.

Keeler-Tillamook Transmission Line Rebuild Project [Washington and Tillamook counties, Ore.]

BPA plans to release an EA this summer on its proposal to rebuild 58 miles of the existing 115-kV transmission lines between Hillsboro and Tillamook, Ore. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/KeelerTillamook.

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.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Submit comments to www.bpa.gov/comment.

- **Sept. 23**, Draft 2014-2018 implementation plan for FCRPS Biological Opinion
- **Sept. 26**, Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild
- **Oct. 31**, Montana to Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project (new substation site alternatives)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Hooper Springs Transmission Project public meeting

- **Sept. 5**, 3:30 to 6 p.m.
Soda Springs High School, 300 E. First St. N., Soda Springs, Idaho

Springfield Sockeye Hatchery opening celebration

- **Sept. 6**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Springfield Sockeye Hatchery, Bingham County, Idaho

Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild public meeting

- **Sept. 11**, 5 to 7 p.m.
Oakridge High School cafeteria, 47997 W. First St., Oakridge, Ore.

Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review public meeting

- **Sept. 16**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
BPA Rates Hearing Room, 1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore.
The agenda and instructions on how to participate by conference call and online meeting will be posted at www.crt2014-2024review.gov.

Midway-Grandview Transmission Line Rebuild and Upgrade Project public meeting

- **Oct. 16**, 4 to 7:30 p.m.
Grandview School District Learning Center, 313 Division St., Grandview, Wash.

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.

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. Email 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.

