

Mainzer named BPA administrator



The Energy Department appointed Elliot Mainzer as the BPA administrator, effective Jan. 27. Mainzer, who previously served as BPA's acting administrator, has worked in the energy industry for more than 16 years.

"The Bonneville Power Administration is vitally important to serving the energy needs of the Pacific Northwest and

contributes greatly to the Energy Department's mission," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. "Elliot Mainzer has the proven experience to lead BPA during this important time, and I look forward to working with him to serve BPA's customers, constituents and employees in the months and years to come."

Mainzer was appointed acting deputy administrator in February 2013 and appointed acting administrator in July 2013. He has been with BPA since 2002 and has held a variety of other management positions within BPA, including trading floor manager, manager of Transmission Policy and Strategy, and Executive Vice President of Corporate Strategy.

"Elliot has both the expertise and the commitment to serve the Northwest region well, and I want to thank him for his tremendous leadership and achievements over the past 12 years at BPA," said DOE Deputy Secretary Daniel Poneman. "The Energy Department — and BPA's customers — are fortunate that Elliot will lead BPA as it continues its historic leadership role on energy and environmental issues, serving the Northwest region and the nation."

Mainzer led BPA's strategic planning and asset management programs, and provided policy direction for BPA's work on renewable resource integration and technology innovation. He has also provided leadership and coordination of significant regional initiatives, including the Northwest Wind Integration Action Plan in 2007, the Northwest Power Pool Members' Market Assessment

and Coordination Initiative and, as acting administrator, served as chair of the U.S. Entity for the Columbia River Treaty.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead BPA during this challenging and historic time for the region," Mainzer said. "I am excited to work with our employees, customers and constituents, state, local and tribal governments, and the Northwest congressional delegation to meet the energy and environmental challenges facing the Northwest and position BPA to continue to deliver value to the region well into the future."

Mainzer received an undergraduate degree in geography from the University of California, Berkeley, and master's degrees in business and environmental studies from Yale University.

He lives in Portland, Ore., with his wife and twin boys.

NW utilities collaborate on grid improvements

A group of public and investor-owned utilities that compose the executive committee of the Northwest Power Pool Members' Market Assessment and Coordination Committee (MC) has decided to move forward with a set of regional actions and investments to increase system visibility, foster a more robust bilateral capacity market and further evaluate design, cost and governance elements of a potential security constrained economic dispatch within the Northwest Power Pool footprint.

Building on the qualitative and quantitative work of phases one and two of the MC initiative, the decision sets the stage for a third phase of activity that will further advance the MC's effort to develop a comprehensive commercial operations framework for the Northwest, built on a foundation of reliability, capacity adequacy and economic efficiency.

"This is an important step forward for the region," said BPA acting Administrator Elliot Mainzer. "Phase three will address many critical needs with respect to reliability coordination and will help resolve longstanding barriers to a more robust bilateral market for balancing capacity."



Phase three will include seven work products:

- Regional flow forecast of system conditions on targeted transmission flowgates;
- Regional data aggregation and data-sharing tools to provide balancing authorities and merchants greater visibility and access to selected operating data;
- Improved resource monitoring and deliverability to ensure availability and deliverability of energy and capacity;
- Flow-based operational integration to ensure appropriate coordination between the reliability coordinator (Peak Reliability), the NWPP Reserve Sharing Group and regional operators;
- 15-minute flexible capacity definitions and a functional transaction platform to improve the efficiency and liquidity of the bilateral capacity market;
- Development of BA-level resource-sufficiency data collection and reporting process, protocols, and agreements;
- Additional analysis of design, cost and governance elements of a security constrained economic dispatch within the Northwest Power Pool footprint to inform decisions in potential phases four and five. Under a SCED, loads are served with generation that is dispatched in five-minute increments at the lowest cost, within reliability and transmission constraints.

“I am pleased that most of the NWPP member utilities are continuing to work together toward regional solutions,” said PGE President and CEO Jim Piro. “The steps we are taking in phase three have value for all our participants and their customers. They are also important precursors to coming reliability requirements in the region and to a security constrained economic dispatch model, if utilities ultimately decide to move in that direction together.”

The MC Initiative was established in March 2012 to build on the Northwest Power Pool’s 70-year legacy of improving regional coordination and finding efficient solutions to operational challenges.

“While we still have unresolved concerns about the ultimate costs and benefits of a SCED within the region, I believe it is important to keep the region’s utilities working together on these issues,” said Bill Gaines, director/CEO of Tacoma Public Utilities. “Customer value and critical governance issues must be closely addressed as we work through phase three and consider additional steps.”

The MC plans to host a public meeting in mid-February to provide interested stakeholders with an opportunity to learn more and provide input regarding the phase three activities.

Gov. Inslee presents awards for EE excellence

Gov. Jay Inslee presented awards to five industrial companies for their outstanding leadership in improved energy performance at the second annual Washington Industrial Energy Leaders awards ceremony Dec. 10 in Olympia.

“Energy efficiency means an improved bottom line for industries, and I am proud of the commitment toward innovative energy savings demonstrated by tonight’s awardees,” Gov. Inslee said to the audience, which included staff and executives from industrial companies, electric utilities and energy efficiency organizations, as well as other state leaders and representatives.

BPA is the founding sponsor of the Washington Industrial Energy Leaders program, which was designed to recognize companies that are making exceptional progress toward energy efficiency. The program is also sponsored by the Washington State University Energy Program, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and the Washington State Department of Commerce.

The governor’s award for leadership by example went to Fitesa Washougal Inc., a nonwoven fabrics plant served by Clark Public Utilities. With help from Clark PUD and BPA, Fitesa cut its energy use by about 19 percent, or 3.5 million kilowatt-hours annually, through energy-efficiency measures and chiller, air-compressor and lighting upgrades. Inslee also recognized Georgia-Pacific with an award for Leadership in Energy Performance for implementing an array of energy-efficiency measures with its utility, Pacific Power. Cardinal Glass received the state’s Leadership in Innovation award for developing innovative and efficient ways of coating and processing glass.

Among the other awardees, ConAgra Foods’ Lamb Weston facility in Paterson, Wash., received an honorable mention for improvements made in partnership with its utility, Benton Rural Electric Association, and through participation in BPA’s Energy Smart Industrial Program.

Richard Gécécé, BPA’s vice president of Energy Efficiency, served as master of ceremonies. He was especially proud of the energy achievements by BPA’s public power customers. “Their commitment to saving energy is indicative of the innovation and leadership that has made the Northwest a national leader in energy efficiency, and the example they set provides a roadmap for industrial organizations throughout the country to follow.”

Northwest publicly owned utilities serve nearly 2,400 megawatts of industrial load, over half of which is in the state of Washington. In the past four years, Northwest industrial companies have partnered with their utilities to achieve more than 60 average megawatts of energy savings.

Library offers vol. I of vintage BPA films

Kick off the new year by taking a cinematic journey into the early era of the Northwest hydroelectric power and transmission systems. The BPA Library has released a new DVD set of six BPA-produced films from the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

The two-DVD set, called “BPA Film Collection Volume 1, 1939–1954,” is the first collection of BPA films from the agency’s archives ever made available. And the BPA Library is offering the newly released set to the general public, particularly to teachers, schools, libraries, Northwest electric utilities and other public institutions. To receive a copy, contact BPA’s Public Information Center at 503-230-4636 (toll-free: 800-622-4520) or pic@bpa.gov. In addition, all six films are available to view and share on BPA’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/BonnevillePower.

“These films reveal so many fascinating slices of BPA’s history,” says library researcher Libby Burke, a film archivist with a degree in cinema studies who curated the series and the DVD collection. “We thought a DVD set would be a great way for people to enjoy these vintage films and learn about the rich history of electric power in the Northwest.”

The first disc in the collection includes three of BPA’s earliest films: “Hydro” (1939); “The Columbia: America’s Greatest Power Stream” (1949), which contains songs Woody Guthrie wrote while working for BPA; and “Highline” (1950), about the building of the Northwest electric transmission system.

Disc two features films about the Columbia Power System and the Pacific Northwest in transition: “Power Builds Ships” (1942), about the World War II ship-building industry in the Northwest; “25,000 Volts Under the Sea” (1952), about the remarkable design, transport and laying of the underwater high-voltage cable that electrified the San Juan Islands; and “Look to the River” (1954), a rather impressionistic color film about the expansion of the hydro-power system, with a score by Oscar-winning composer Ernest Gold.

As a bonus, the set includes a booklet of stories, photos and reproductions of BPA artists’ movie posters, as well as an introduction by Burke, who offers insight about the films on each disc.

The story behind the making of the films is often as interesting as the history of the Columbia River Power System they depict. Following the establishment of BPA in the late 1930s, Stephen B. Kahn, the agency’s information officer, launched a film division with professional directors, composers and cinematographers. The team produced films to educate the public on the concept and advantages of public power, the value and scale of the Columbia River Power System that generates it and the agency that

transmits it. Made as part of a larger government film program, these films were played in chambers of commerce, community clubs, granges and other organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest. And some were even shown in movie theaters.

While the films take viewers back to BPA’s early days, it should be noted that they portrayed the popular perspectives of the day, which predate some of the cultural and environmental sensitivities we have today. “These films were made at a time when those issues weren’t traditionally considered,” Burke notes. “But with that in mind, we can still appreciate the history and purpose of these films.”

It should also be mentioned that the entire DVD set, from the content management to the cover artwork and printing, was produced in-house. The only exception: The films were transferred from 16mm to digital by a Portland movie preservation company at a reasonable cost.

National spotlight shines on BPA’s work

BPA’s work has been showcased in several recent industry publications.

Gracing the cover of the January issue of Northwest Public Power Association’s Bulletin magazine is a feature article that details the investments BPA is making to minimize the damage an extreme earthquake could have on the Northwest power system. The Bulletin is a monthly publication that reaches electric utilities and electric power industry organizations in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, California and British Columbia.

To read the cover story, go to www.bpa.gov and search for “BPA preps the power grid for the big one.”

Transmission and Distribution World spotlighted BPA’s award-winning synchrophasor program, which has unlocked breakthroughs in power system control and visibility, enabling the agency to manage the Northwest power grid more efficiently and reliably. Transmission and Distribution World is a highly-regarded electric power industry publication that features articles by technical editors, engineers and other industry professionals. To read the article, go to <http://tdworld.com/ems-scada/pulse-grid>.

American Builders Quarterly, a publication that highlights how construction, design and development executives are shaping and innovating the U.S. building industry, recently published an article about Brian Scott, manager of BPA’s Transmission Project Management Office. The article explains how Scott has helped transform the way the agency manages its capital expansion program, which plans and executes the major construction projects that enable BPA’s high-voltage transmission system to serve the growing needs of the region. Read the article at <http://americanbuildersquarterly.com/2013/bonneville-power-administration/>.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

Capital Investment Review [Regionwide]

BPA will host a CIR kickoff Feb. 20. The CIR is designed to provide interested parties an opportunity to review and comment on BPA's long-term capital forecasts and draft asset strategies. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CIR.

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. The draft ROD is scheduled to be issued Feb. 13. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase.

TRANSMISSION

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

BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact and has decided to proceed with this project to improve about 13.5 miles of transmission line access roads along the existing Boyer Tillamook transmission line. The existing access roads for this transmission line are in poor condition. Project documents are available at www.bpa.gov/goto/BoyerTillamookAccessRoads.

Alvey-Fairview Transmission Line Rebuild Project [Lane, Douglas and Coos counties, Ore.]

BPA will release a draft EA for the proposed Alvey-Fairview transmission line rebuild project Feb. 7. Comments will be accepted through March 3. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/go/Alvey-Fairview-rebuild.

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

BPA is accepting comments through Feb. 3 on the proposal to rebuild nearly 28 miles of the Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1 115-kV transmission line between the cities of Coulee Dam and Creston, Wash. A draft environmental assessment describes the project and why it is needed, discusses the environmental impacts the project would create and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CouleeCrestonRebuild.

Pacific Direct Current Intertie Upgrade Project [Lake, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes and Wasco counties, Ore.]

BPA is accepting comments on the draft EA through March 3. The project includes proposed upgrades on the DC transmission line from the substation south to the Nevada-Oregon border. The final EA is expected in May. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/PDCIUpgrade.

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

BPA sent a project newsletter in December 2013 about field work that is being conducted. The information will help BPA determine potential impacts from the project and ways to reduce or avoid them. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/i-5 or call 800-230-6593.

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project [Bonner County, Idaho]

BPA has prepared a draft EA on its proposal to fund an Idaho Department of Fish and Game project to restore parts of the Clark Fork River Delta. Comments on the draft will be accepted through March 3. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/ClarkForkRiverDelta.

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.

Feb. 3 – Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild

March 3 – Alvey-Fairview Transmission Line Rebuild Project

March 3 – Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project

March 3 – Pacific Direct Current Intertie Upgrade Project

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Quarterly Business Review

- **Feb. 4**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore.

Capital Investment Review kickoff

- **Feb. 20**, Meeting details will be available soon at www.bpa.gov/goto/calendar.

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.

