

Mainzer takes oath of office



Elliot Mainzer (left), accompanied by his wife, Margaret, takes the oath of office, which was administered by Randy Roach, BPA executive vice president and general counsel.

Elliot Mainzer became BPA's 15th administrator after taking the oath of office Feb. 20 at the agency's headquarters in Portland. More than 500 BPA employees, customers, and regional and tribal leaders packed the auditorium to watch the swearing-in ceremony.

Mainzer was congratulated by U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), who could not attend the event in person. Jay Ward, Sen. Wyden's director of business outreach, read a letter of support at the ceremony.

Randy Roach, BPA executive vice president and general counsel, administered the oath of office. Mainzer had served as acting administrator since July 2013.

After taking the oath of office and receiving a standing ovation, Mainzer spoke for several minutes.

"I am both humbled and excited by the opportunity and pleased to serve at such an important and historically significant time for the region," he said. "And while this is a very meaningful moment for me personally, we are

really here today to celebrate the tremendous people and historical legacy of BPA, and the challenges and opportunities that will define our collective future."

Mainzer took the opportunity to recognize the family, friends and colleagues who have been incredibly supportive throughout his life.

He opened with an internally directed message: "Since the day I assumed the role of acting administrator last July, I could see that we needed to be very focused and disciplined to successfully navigate the troubled waters we faced. Many of you have now heard the top three priorities that I have used to guide BPA during this period: run the business, take care of our people and fix the problems associated with our hiring and personnel practices."

After describing the significant progress BPA has made on addressing its hiring issues, Mainzer laid out his strategic priorities. They include developing a long-term capital investment strategy to maintain and enhance the FCRPS, bringing non-federal sources of balancing capacity and flexibility into BPA operations, partnering with the region to meet fish and wildlife objectives, modernizing the Columbia River Treaty, and moving ahead with energy efficiency and demand response programs. He also emphasized the significance of regional efforts to find ways of better coordinating operations and resources, such as the market assessment work with Northwest Power Pool members.

At the conclusion of his 10-minute address, he called on the region to act. "As BPA administrator, I would like all of us within the region to ask that same timeless question: How can we best come together to meet the collective needs of the region in the most reliable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way possible? If we stay true to our values and continue to focus on collaborative relationships and pragmatic problem-solving, I am confident that we can build a world-class power system for the 21st century."



Region mourns passing of Peter Johnson



Peter Johnson's courage, intelligence and willingness to listen made him one of BPA's most revered administrators.

Peter T. Johnson, the BPA administrator during a crucial chapter of the agency's history between 1981 and 1986, died Feb. 9 in Boise, Idaho, after a long illness. He was 82.

Johnson guided BPA through the early implementation of the Northwest Power Act and was faced with one of the toughest decisions the agency ever made — to shut down the construction of two Washington Public Power Supply System nuclear plants.

“Peter Johnson was a man of great character with incredible business acumen,” said BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer. “He put BPA on a sound financial footing, stabilized BPA's rates, and encouraged better use of existing resources in lieu of just building more of them. He was an iconic figure whose influence is still present at BPA today. He will be missed. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.”

In July of 1986, Johnson returned to private life in McCall, Idaho, where he started the Payette Lake Water Quality Council and co-founded the Idaho Community Foundation. In 1992, the 60,000-acre Peter T. Johnson Wildlife Management Unit was dedicated in his honor. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, four daughters and 10 grandchildren.

BPA, public power beat 2013 EE targets

BPA's Energy Efficiency team, working with its public power utility customers, saved nearly 60 average megawatts of energy in fiscal year 2013. That's enough energy to power more than 43,000 homes and equates to more than \$37 million in electric bill savings for Northwest ratepayers. BPA's fiscal year 2013 energy savings target was 56 aMW.

In support of the region's energy conservation goals set by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, BPA and Northwest publicly owned utilities administer programs to pursue cost-effective energy savings in all sectors of the economy.

From start to finish, saving energy is the culmination of a tremendous number of collaborative and individual efforts by BPA and utility staff. From BPA's standpoint, it requires identifying and researching new energy-saving technologies for the Northwest market, designing effective programs for electric utilities to implement, conducting rigorous planning to ensure reliable savings, and providing customer support from BPA engineers, EE representatives, contracting staff and others throughout the agency.

Most importantly, energy efficiency requires the implementation of projects throughout BPA's utility customers' territories, ranging from small upgrades that benefit individual homeowners to huge process improvements at industrial sites. On the small end of the scale, John Hesch, a customer of Mason County PUD No. 3 in Shelton, Wash., installed a ductless heat pump and is seeing substantial savings on his heating bill. Justin Holzgrove, conservation manager for the utility, says more of its ratepayers are going ductless.

“We've continued to spread the word that ductless heat pumps are a great way to heat your home and save money on your bill,” he said.

At the large end of the scale, there are companies like Fitesa Washougal, a non-woven hygiene fabrics plant in Washington. Fitesa stands to save more than \$835,000 in annual energy expenses through efficiency upgrades and energy management supported by BPA and Clark Public Utilities.

Advancing energy efficiency is a simple equation for the Vancouver, Wash.-based utility. “It costs us less to use energy more efficiently than to build more capacity,” says Sam Walker, energy engineer for Clark PUD.

Since 1980, BPA and Northwest utilities have cumulatively acquired more than 5 average gigawatts of power through energy efficiency activities. That's enough energy to power Seattle more than four times over.

New demand response project launched

BPA and Nippon Paper Industries USA in Port Angeles, Wash., are testing the mill's ability to voluntarily decrease energy consumption by up to 30 megawatts when called upon. This is the first incentive contract for BPA's Demand Response Program, which provides financial incentives for complying with occasional requests to decrease energy use, an action that can help to balance the electric grid when the demand for energy exceeds supply.

“Port Angeles has really stepped up to help the region solve important energy issues, such as integrating clean, renewable wind power,” said Lee Hall, BPA smart grid program manager.

Once the operational feasibility of demand response is thoroughly tested, the tool could be used to ensure grid reliability. Balancing tools are in high demand as the amount of variable renewable energy increases.

The goals of the testing phase are to demonstrate the ability of demand response loads to serve as a reliable tool for addressing system needs in response to a commercial incentive; and to determine what commercial arrangements are needed to encourage utilities and their customers to participate in future demand response programs in the region.

“We are continually looking at opportunities within our distribution system for technologies we can use for demand response, such as voltage optimization or pumping loads at the city’s water and wastewater treatment facilities,” said Bob Kajfasz, commercial energy analyst for Port Angeles.

Meanwhile, BPA continues to explore demand response technologies that could change how the Northwest power system is operated.

R&D projects reviewed at TI Summit

BPA invests in technology research, development and demonstrations to enable breakthroughs, increase reliability and efficiencies, and reduce costs. Every year, BPA’s Technology Innovation Office hosts an intense weeklong review of its research portfolio as part of a cycle that guides the agency’s R&D investments.

“Our research management approach is a critical part of our success,” said Terry Oliver, chief technology innovation officer. “It ensures BPA is sponsoring research most likely to directly benefit us.”

At this year’s Technology Innovation Summit, held the last week of January in Portland, Ore., researchers and project team members briefed BPA’s Technology Confirmation and Innovation Council on the progress of 38 projects in areas such as climate change, data mining, demand response, dynamic transfers, energy efficiency, energy storage, hydro system modeling, and voltage stability and damping controls.

The council, made up of a diverse group of executives and employees, scored each project on its progress, benefits and application or technology transfer readiness.

Dr. Wayne Lei, director of research and development at Portland General Electric, was one of the special guest members participating in the summit. “The process and discipline demonstrated at this TI review is very impressive,” he said. “The topics are on target. And I was very pleased to see BPA taking a lead role in the region, especially in the area of grid resiliency.”

Other guests included Robin Bedilion, senior technical leader at the Electric Power Research Institute; Kerry Cheung, electrical engineer with the Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability; Marie Rochefort, transmission manager at Hydro-Québec; Bruce Rogers, director of Technology Innovation, Tennessee Valley Authority; Alison Silverstein, an independent consultant on electric power issues; and Will Slinkard, engineering systems manager at Western Area Power Administration.

The council will use the evaluations from the summit to complete the portfolio review and decide which projects BPA will continue to fund, and which ones will be pruned to make room for new research.

“Projects will be judged on their continued worth to BPA, and some will be told to compete again,” Oliver added.

In March, the Technology Innovation Office will begin accepting R&D proposals for its fiscal year 2015 portfolio.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

AGENCY PROJECTS

OS-14 Rate Case [Regionwide]

BPA released the draft ROD in February. In the OS-14 rate case, BPA is proposing a rate to recover the costs incurred under the Oversupply Management Protocol. The final ROD is due March 27. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/RateCase.

Capital in Review [Regionwide]

As part of its Capital in Review process, BPA is accepting comments on draft asset strategies, proposed capital forecasts and project prioritization through April 11. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CIR.

Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

POWER

Energy Efficiency Post-2011 Policy Review [Regionwide]

BPA is conducting a public process to review and consider improvements to the BPA energy efficiency policy framework and associated implementation elements put into place Oct. 1, 2011. The Post-2011 Review will be conducted by five work groups that will discuss issues and report out at regional meetings between February and June. The next regional meeting will be March 20 in Eugene, Ore. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.

Retained Provisional Contract High Water Mark Calculations [Regionwide]

BPA will hold a public meeting March 14 and accept comments through March 24 on the retained provisional CHWM calculations. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/documents/#HW.

TRANSMISSION

Transmission System Segmentation Policy Review [Regionwide]

BPA is conducting a public review of its segmentation policy. The next workshop is March 4. This process is a result of the BP-14 rate case, in which a number of parties weighed in on a variety of segmentation concerns and offered recommendations for alternative methodologies. Segmentation is a part of the cost allocation process in determining transmission rates. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/Finance/RateCases/BP-16/Pages/Meetings-Workshops.aspx.

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

BPA released the draft environmental assessment for the proposed Alvey-Fairview transmission line rebuild project on Feb. 7. Comments will be accepted through March 3. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/AlveyFairview.

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

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

Environment, Fish and Wildlife

Kootenai River Restoration at Bonners Ferry [Boundary County, Idaho]

BPA is accepting comments through March 10 on a proposal to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to restore portions of the Kootenai River near Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The proposal involves installing structures

on the river banks, creating deeper pools in the river channel, and enhancing habitat on instream islands. The project has been designed to improve habitat for Kootenai White Sturgeon that are listed under the Endangered Species Act and other native fish. For information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/BonnersFerry.

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

BPA has prepared a draft environmental assessment 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.

March 3 – Alvey-Fairview Transmission Line Rebuild Project

March 3 – Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project

March 3 – Pacific Direct Current Intertie Upgrade Project

March 10 – Kootenai River Restoration

March 24 – Retained Provisional Contract High Water Mark calculations

April 11 – Capital in Review

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Segmentation workshop

- **March 4**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
BPA Rates Hearing Room, 1201 Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore.

Retained Provisional Contract High Water Mark public meeting

- **March 14**, 9 a.m. to noon, BPA Rates Hearing Room
1201 Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore.

Energy Efficiency Post-2011 Policy Review

- **March 20**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Meeting details will be available soon at www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/.

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.

