



Journal

February 2016

Mitman announces retirement



Nancy Mitman, Executive Vice President and CFO, will retire in July.

Chief Financial Officer Nancy Mitman announced that she will retire from the Bonneville Power Administration in July.

Mitman, who was appointed BPA executive vice president and chief financial officer in September of 2014, began her career at BPA in 1988 as an accountant and steadily rose through the ranks of financial management and leadership. As CFO, Mitman oversees capital and debt management, accounting, cash management

and budgeting for BPA's \$4.3 billion total budget.

"The Northwest has benefited greatly from Nancy's incredible wealth of knowledge of federal budgeting and BPA's financial infrastructure," said BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer.

"Throughout her tenure, Nancy has maintained a steadfast focus on keeping our costs low, maintaining thorough and transparent financial records, and building business practices that are both modern and efficient. In addition, she has brought a longer-term perspective to the comprehensive financial health of our organization that will bring even more benefits to the region for decades to come."

Before serving as CFO, Mitman acted as BPA's executive vice president and chief financial officer for more than a year. During that period, BPA conducted the first Capital Investment Review, a public process that involves a new, cross-agency capital prioritization and allows interested parties the opportunity to comment on BPA's draft asset strategies and 10-year capital forecasts. In addition to multiple stints as acting chief financial officer, she also served as BPA's treasurer and deputy chief financial officer.

"It's been a privilege to work with the people at BPA, sharing their passion for public service," Mitman said. "BPA's important public responsibilities and the evolution of our industry have offered a multitude of opportunities to contribute to achieving regional benefits and giving back to the community I call home."

Mitman wanted to make the announcement ahead of her retirement date in order to provide an orderly transition to a new CFO. This sequence allows time to conduct the federal selection process and provide a brief overlap period before her departure.

BPA selects new VP of Transmission Planning and Asset Management



Jeff Cook is BPA's new vice president of Transmission Planning and Asset Management.

The Bonneville Power Administration has selected Jeff Cook as its new vice president of Transmission Planning and Asset Management.

"Jeff has over two decades of experience in the utility industry driving and leading innovative solutions to complex problems," said Richard Shaheen, BPA senior vice president for Transmission Services. "He is the right candidate to guide our efforts in proactively preserving and enhancing the value of BPA's transmission system for the benefit of the greater Northwest."

As leader of BPA's Planning and Asset Management organization, Cook will oversee the transmission system asset management program to promote the reliability, efficiency and economical use of all transmission-related physical assets. He began his new duties Dec. 27.

Cook also will guide the development of an asset management system framework that will help inform decisions on near- and long-term activities and strategies to meet the predicted future demands on BPA's transmission system, achieve its desired performance levels and realize the lowest life-cycle costs for these assets.

"Dynamic market changes, and heightened regional and inter-regional planning and technology advancements will significantly impact the Northwest transmission networks," Cook said. "I am thrilled about being a part of this exciting season in the electric utility industry and am honored to lead our Transmission Planning and Asset Management team."



Public Involvement

BPA PROJECTS

Focus 2028 [Regionwide]

BPA is hosting its next round of Focus 2028 discussions in February 2016. BPA accepted comments about future Focus 2028 discussion topics through Dec. 9, 2015. The topics identified to date include financial health metrics and policies; cost management practices; performance-based environmental stewardship; optimizing BPA's energy efficiency program design; long-term approach to federal hydropower system stewardship and finding balance in transmission business and builds. Topics may be added or modified as BPA staff review comments and ideas that were received. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/Focus2028.

POWER

Alcoa remand public process [Regionwide]

BPA accepted public input and comment to assist in its response to the decision issued Sept. 18, 2014, by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The ruling in *Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities, et al. v. Bonneville Power Administration* related to BPA's contracts with its direct-service industry customers. In its decision, the court instructed BPA to address four specific questions regarding service to Alcoa and the recovery of funds. BPA issued a draft record of decision on Sept. 4, 2015 and accepted comments through Oct. 9, 2015. Comments received will assist BPA in its decision-making before issuing a final record of decision on Jan. 21, 2016. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/Documents/DSI.SHTML.

2015 Pacific Northwest Loads and Resources Study (2015 White Book) [Regionwide]

BPA has released its latest projection of the Pacific Northwest regional retail loads, contract obligations, contract purchases and resource capabilities. The 2015 White Book is a snapshot of conditions as of June 30, 2015, documenting the loads and resources for the Federal system and the PNW region for the 10-year study period fiscal year 2017 through 2026. The White Book also contains information obtained from other formalized resource planning reports and data submittals including those from individual utilities, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/power/pgp/whitebook/whitebook.shtml.

Cost verification for fiscal year 2015 Slice true-up adjustment charge [Regionwide]

During BPA's second comment period for the Cost Verification Process, which closed on January 5, the Slice customer group elaborated on previously submitted comments. BPA staff expects to provide a response by the end of January. The fiscal year 2015 composite cost pool savings, when compared to the rate case forecast, are \$144.7 million. As a result, the fiscal year 2015 Slice true-up adjustment that is applicable to Slice customers is a credit of \$40.4 million. The remainder of the cost verification process schedule is being established. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/costverification.

Cook came to BPA in March of 2004 as an electrical engineer for its control and communication systems. He later managed the Customer Service Engineering group and Transmission's Communication and Grid Modeling group. Last spring, Cook became the acting vice president of Engineering and Technical Services and then moved to acting vice president of Planning and Asset Management, the position he now assumes permanently.

Before BPA, Cook worked for several utility and communication companies, including CenturyTel and Pacific Power and Light. Cook earned his bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from Colorado State University in 1990. He holds a professional engineering license in Oregon.

Farewell to the Eastern Control Center

The Eastern Control Center, once a critical hub for BPA system operations, was retired at the end of 2015, after hard work and initiative from employees and contractors across the organization.

Located in Moses Lake, Wash., the Eastern Control Center was built in the late 1950s to support military operations for the U.S. Air Force. The building housed huge computer systems that supported the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment system, a defense network used to track foreign bomber attacks. When the Department of Defense vacated the building, BPA took it over and converted the main floor to an alternate control center.

In the mid-1990s, BPA relocated its alternate control center to the Munro Control Center in Spokane, Wash., but maintained a small footprint at Eastern Control Center to house communications equipment through a lease agreement with a data storage company. Because this equipment carries critical power system reliability traffic such as transfer trip capabilities and remedial action schemes, or TT and RAS, it was difficult to take the equipment out of service to replace it and completely vacate the building.

In 2013, the Technology Evaluation and Systems Testing group developed a technical solution, using General Electric JungleMUX equipment that allows the critical reliability circuits to be moved out of the Eastern Control Center without having to replace the analog end equipment.

The project officially kicked off in February, and the team completed the project in nine months, well ahead of the Jan. 1, 2016 lease schedule, saving BPA hundreds of thousands of dollars in future lease costs, and the project was well under budget, using only 63 percent of its allocated funds.

"When we started this project it seemed like an impossible task, but one that was really worthwhile," project manager Molly Kovaka said. "Everyone prioritized the work, helped each other out, and maintained the flexibility needed to fast-track it. When the last circuits were migrated, and the last equipment moved out, there was a palpable sense of celebration in the team."

Proposed Momentum Savings Baseline Alignment Library [Regionwide]

BPA is seeking feedback on its proposal to scope and implement a baseline alignment library, which would provide an optional resource for utilities that conduct Conservation Potential Assessments. Without alignment on baselines, BPA cannot accurately report Momentum savings to utilities. Baseline alignment also affects Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and program savings. BPA sought feedback on the proposal and approach through Jan. 27, 2016. Comments will be considered as BPA makes a final decision, and the agency will respond in a letter to the region. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/BaselineLibrary.

TRANSMISSION

Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project [Kalispell and Polson, Mont.]

BPA proposes to rebuild the 41-mile Kalispell-Kerr 115-kilovolt wood-pole transmission line between the cities of Kalispell and Polson in Montana. The project is necessary due to the overall age and condition of the line. Our intent is to rebuild the lines with the same general structure locations and similar pole heights, except where changes would be needed to conform to safety standards. Improvements would involve replacing all wood-pole structures (including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors and insulator assemblies); replacing conductors and ground wires; and improving access roads. BPA expects to release the draft environmental assessment in February 2016. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would begin in the summer of 2017. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/KalispellKerr.

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

BPA expects to release a final environmental assessment in March 2016 and a decision concerning whether to rebuild the two transmission lines and upgrade the Midway-Grandview transmission line. The final environmental assessment addresses comments received on the draft environmental assessment. If the decision is made to rebuild and upgrade the lines, construction would begin in September or October of 2016. The Bureau of Land Management is a cooperating agency with BPA for the environmental assessment. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/MidMoxGrand.

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

BPA proposes to rebuild the 26-mile Hills Creek-Lookout Point 115-kV wood-pole transmission line between the cities of Oakridge and Lowell, Ore. Improvements would involve replacing all wood-pole structures (including poles and other hardware); replacing conductors and ground wires; realigning the transmission line to avoid a rock fall and landslide; and improving access roads. BPA expects to publish the draft environmental assessment for comment in March 2016. The U.S. Forest Service is a cooperating agency with BPA for the EA. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would begin in the summer of 2018. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/hillscreeklookoutpoint.

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

BPA expects to release a final environmental impact statement in the early part of this year. The final EIS does not represent or include a decision concerning whether to build the proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project. Before BPA makes any such decision, it is further reviewing the cost and rate implications of the project. BPA is also continuing to explore potential options that would not involve building the line — referred to as non-wire measures — to see if there are any feasible and cost-effective options that could defer the need for the project, either in the long term or indefinitely. BPA expects to make a decision about the project by the end of 2016. If it decides to build, BPA would then focus on negotiating acquisition of the required easements from property owners and obtaining permits. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/i5.

Lane-Wendson Transmission Line Rebuild Project [Lane County, Ore.]

BPA proposes to rebuild the 41.3-mile Lane-Wendson No. 1 115-kV wood-pole transmission line between Eugene and Florence, Ore. The project is necessary due to the age and condition of the line. BPA's intent is to rebuild the lines using the same general structure locations and similar pole heights, except where changes may be needed to conform with safety standards. Improvements would involve replacing all wood-pole structures (including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors and insulator assemblies); replacing conductors and ground wires; replacing five disconnect switches; and improving access roads. BPA accepted comments through Jan. 4, 2016. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would begin in the summer of 2016. For more information, go to http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lane-Wendson/.

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project [Clark County, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to fund the Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project, proposed by the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and the Port of Camas-Washougal, located on the Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge in Clark County, Wash. The project, which would reconnect Gibbons Creek to the Columbia River, is intended to improve water quality and habitat to benefit steelhead and cutthroat trout; chinook, coho and chum salmon; and Pacific and Western brook lamprey. BPA initiated scoping in December and the scoping period closed on Jan. 27, 2016. BPA hosted a public meeting in Washougal, Wash., on Jan. 14, 2016. BPA plans to develop a draft EIS by fall 2016. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/SteigerwaldFloodplain.

Bird Track Springs Restoration Project [Union County, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to fund the Birdtrack Springs Restoration Project, located within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and adjacent to private lands in the upper Grande Ronde River, Ore. The project is a partnership between BPA, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. The project will benefit Endangered Species Act-listed Pacific salmonids and their habitat by excavating channel meanders, removing artificial constraints, increasing off-channel connectivity and increasing instream complexity through placement of large wood structures. Initial project scoping is expected to begin in mid-February 2016.

Public Involvement continued [Updates & Notices]

Kerry Island Restoration Project [Columbia County, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to fund the Kerry Island Restoration Project, proposed by the Columbia Land Trust and located along Westport Slough about a mile east of the town of Westport, Ore. The project would benefit Endangered Species Act-listed Pacific salmonids and their habitat by removing a levee surrounding the island, restoring a tidal channel network, and restoring tidal wetlands and floodplain connectivity. Initial project scoping is expected to begin in late February 2016.

Lower Elochoman Restoration Project [Wahkiakum County, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to fund the Lower Elochoman Restoration Project, proposed by the Columbia Land Trust and located along the Lower Elochoman River about two miles north of the town of Cathlamet, Wash. The project would benefit Endangered Species Act-listed Pacific salmonids and their habitat by removing a levee along the Lower Elochoman River and restoring wetlands and floodplain connectivity. Initial project scoping is expected to begin in late February 2016.

Wallacut River Confluence Restoration Project [Pacific County, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to fund the Wallacut River Confluence Restoration Project, proposed by the Columbia Land Trust, along the Wallacut River at its confluence with the Columbia River about 1.5 miles northeast of the town of Ilwaco, Wash. The project would benefit Endangered Species Act-listed Pacific salmonids and their habitat by removing a levee along the Wallacut River, restoring a tidal channel network, and restoring tidal wetlands and floodplain connectivity. Initial project scoping is expected to begin in late February 2016.

Middle Entiat River Restoration Project [Chelan County, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to provide funding for the Middle Entiat River Habitat Restoration Project, a river restoration and habitat improvement project along a four-mile section of the Entiat River, in Chelan County, Wash. The goal of the proposed project is to re-establish natural riverine processes and a properly functioning and self-sustaining riverine floodplain ecosystem that would provide critical spawning, rearing, and off-channel refuge habitat for native fish and floodplain-associated wildlife in the Entiat River basin for steelhead, bull trout, and other resident fish. Scoping will be initiated Feb. 1, 2016, and comments will be accepted until March 1, 2016. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/MiddleEntiat.

Eightmile Ranch Coho Acclimation Site [Okanogan County, Wash.]

BPA and the U.S. Forest Service plan to release the final environmental assessment for the Eightmile Ranch Coho Acclimation Site early this year. The Forest Service plans to release its draft decision notice for the project at the same time. Release of these documents will begin a 45 day public objection period. Tentatively, the Forest Service plans to issue its final decision notice and special-use permit, if warranted, in early to mid-2016. BPA plans to release its finding of no significant impact, or FONSI, if warranted, within one to two weeks after the Forest Service issues the special-use permit. For more information, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/Eightmile.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

- **Mar. 1**, Middle Entiat River Restoration Project

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For current meeting information, go to www.bpa.gov/PublicInvolvement/Cal.

Quarterly Business Review

- **Feb. 2**, 10 a.m. to noon
BPA Rates Hearing Room
1201 Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore

Focus 2028 February Forum

- **Feb. 10**, 1 to 5 p.m.
- **Feb. 11**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Feb. 12**, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
BPA Rates Hearing Room
1201 Lloyd Blvd., Suite 200, Portland, Ore

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.

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.

