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**PUBLIC POWER COUNCIL SUPPORTS
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
MEASURES DURING HIGH WIND AND RUNOFF**

PORTLAND, OR – May 18, 2011 – Public power customers of the Bonneville Power Administration represented by the Public Power Council support the agency’s decision to curtail non-hydropower generation in the extraordinary event of high water, high wind, and low loads.

“Tough circumstances call for tough decisions,” said Scott Corwin, Executive Director of the Public Power Council. “Out of necessity, BPA has made the right decision to cut back on all non-hydropower generation during times of too much water and wind.” Replacing non-hydropower generation with clean, renewable hydropower at no cost is necessary to avoid harm to endangered salmon runs, maintain system reliability and avoid costs shifts to electricity customers.

The recent addition of a large amount of wind generation in the region has required Bonneville to revamp hydropower system operations. In order to manage high wind generation during periods of large spring flows, the agency finalized an interim policy called environmental redispatch. Under this policy, when the combination of high wind and high spring flows results in more generation than loads can use, Bonneville will first limit generation at coal, natural gas and other thermal power plants. If electricity supply continues to exceed demand, Bonneville will temporarily limit wind generation, replacing it with hydroelectric power at no cost.

“Some wind generators’ claims of discriminatory treatment are misplaced and misleading,” said Corwin. “When wind generation is curtailed only as a measure of last resort after other generation, and then is replaced free of charge with hydropower, claims of discriminatory treatment do not hold water. Wind generators will continue to meet their customers’ needs with clean, renewable electricity.”

Bonneville issued this interim policy after extensive public comment and review. All options for safely managing the system during extraordinary wind and water levels were considered and many were adopted, including maximization of reservoir space and transmission capacity, using excess electricity to pump water back into Banks Lake for future use and offering low-cost or free hydropower to create an incentive for thermal generators to curtail generation. Bonneville’s interim policy lays out a plan that adheres to statutory requirements under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

“Claims that Bonneville can simply spill excess water over the dams instead of curtailing wind generation are plain wrong,” said Corwin. Legal requirements to operate the hydro system to minimize harm to salmon and steelhead limit the amount of water that can be spilled over the dams. Bonneville’s interim policy calls for implementation of the maximum amount of spill allowed under the law prior to curtailing non-hydropower generation.

“Public power understands that these are extraordinary circumstances that require extraordinary measures,” said Corwin. “We appreciate BPA’s efforts to seek a solution amenable to all parties, and we commit to continuing to work with the agency and other parties on longer term solutions.”

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About the Public Power Council-The Public Power Council, established in 1966, is an association that represents consumer-owned electric utility customers of the Bonneville Power Administration in the Pacific Northwest. PPC’s goal is to preserve and protect the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System for consumer-owned utilities. For more information, please visit us at www.ppcpx.org.