

# **BPA raises rates; Hanford commits to reducing energy use by 10 percent**

“For about a year we’ve known that we’ve had a problem that would cause our rates to go up,” said Steve Wright, the acting administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration. “Just a little over two months ago, BPA’s customers faced a wholesale rate increase of 250 percent or more. Due to an unprecedented load reduction effort by utilities and industries, I am pleased to announce that the pending increase has been cut to 46 percent effective on Oct. 1.”

At any other time, there might have been a public outcry over a 46-percent increase by BPA, but the announcement brought a collective sigh of relief from Northwest energy users. Wright said the reduced demand means the federal power marketing agency will not have to buy as much power in the high-priced wholesale market.

Wright said the lower rate increase will save ratepayers approximately \$4 billion and save thousands of jobs. “This is money that otherwise would have come out of the pockets of businesses struggling to compete, farmers facing lower commodity prices and everyone who pays electric bills,” he said.

BPA lists the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office as one of its “Golden Heroes” — energy users that have agreed to a 10-percent reduction in consumption. “The Hanford Site has stepped up to meet the voluntary 10-percent electrical energy conservation goal,” said Dave Kelly, Fluor’s energy manager with Hanford Site Operations. “The Fluor team and the rest of the site did a great job in pulling together ideas they have either implemented or intend to implement in the next two years.”

Kelly said Hanford’s utilities staff deserves thanks for compiling the information to submit Hanford’s conservation plan. But he also added, “Just planning to save energy is not enough. It is imperative that each project track the energy conservation initiatives it submitted to completion, and verify actual reductions in electrical consumption.”

“Hanford will benefit by reduced impacts to cleanup activities and residents of the area won’t have to dig as deep into their pocketbooks to pay for increased monthly electrical bills,” said Steve Wisness, director of the DOE-RL Office of Site Services.

“Through innovative energy-saving measures and individual effort, I’m confident Hanford will set an example as one of DOE’s most energy-efficient sites,” added John Wood, Fluor Hanford vice president of Hanford Site Operations. “The indirect benefit of this is an assurance that funding for cleanup will remain constant.”

To ensure that the Hanford forecast remains accurate, completion of conservation initiatives and any new energy uses or changes should be reported to Kelly and the site’s Electrical Utilities organization. E-Mail David S. Kelly with a copy to Jim Uecker. ♦