

Hanford energy reduction continues on track

Oct. 1 marked the beginning of a two-year period in which the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office is committed to reducing Hanford Site energy consumption by 10 percent (“Hanford Site prepares for high energy costs,” *Hanford Reach*, June 11, 2001)

Low water levels behind Northwest dams, plus tight supplies and unprecedented wholesale price increases led to the DOE-RL agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration to pursue ambitious energy conservation goals. The Hanford target is a reduction of 3.13 megawatts, or 10 percent of the previous average load of 31.3 megawatts.

So, how well have we done since the first *Reach* article last June? The accompanying chart documents our progress to date — the actual electrical consumption in fiscal year 2001 versus the DOE-RL and Bonneville Power goal of a 10 percent reduction.

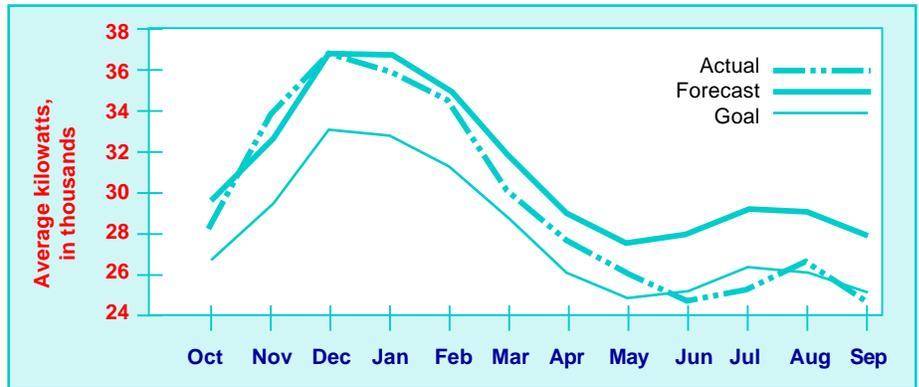
“Progress against the 10 percent reduction goal, so far, is a good news story,” reported John Wood, Fluor Hanford vice president of Hanford Site Operations, in a message to managers. “Up until the warm weather in August, we appeared to be tracking below the 10 percent goal,” he wrote, adding that adverse weather could easily undo our progress. “We should be cautious to not backslide on conservation measures,” he said.

Employees should continue to monitor the use of lights, computers, printers and other equipment. Project managers should follow up on conservation commitments and report their status to David S. Kelly, who is coordinating energy conservation programs within the Fluor Project Hanford team and is also working with other site contractors. Any new electrical loads or changes in load projections should be communicated to Jim Uecker of Electrical Utilities.

Bonneville Power Administration funding is available for projects seeking to initiate energy conservation measures that are not otherwise funded. According to Wood, the site has tentative approval for BPA funding of a water-pump replacement project in the 300 Area and a lighting photocell-control upgrade at the Fast Flux Test Facility. Other initiatives are in the works.

If you identify an energy conservation project that has a payback period of less than 10 years or will drastically reduce the power consumption at your facility over the next two years, you are asked to contact Kelly via e-mail. According to Wood, there will be engineering assistance available for preparing project proposals.

Any steps we take to reduce energy use on site, besides helping to ease the current energy crisis, will also help mitigate the impacts of increased energy costs and possibly save dollars that can be redirected to cleanup work. ♦



BPA Electricity Consumption, Hanford Site, FY01