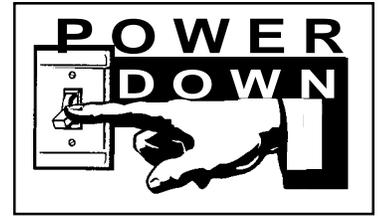


# Each of us holds key to today's Northwest energy shortage

As reflected daily in most of the nation's business sections, the demand for, and price of, electricity continues on a sharp upward climb. Talk of new power generation options – ranging from the construction of nuclear power plants to a greater reliance on wind power – have dominated public discourse since drastic price spikes began jolting ratepayers in California. As many of you know, especially if you are responsible for paying the electric bills in your home, the rate increases have now found their way to the Northwest.



Currently, the Bonneville Power Administration is planning to raise the wholesale electrical rate by 46 percent starting Oct. 1. The BPA will review the current rate situation every six months. The next review will be in December of this year, with implementation, if warranted, in April 2002.

While most of the talk surrounding possible solutions centers on construction of new power sources, the problem of high rates is very apparent today.

Any solution involving new power sources is at least two years from making any kind of noticeable impact. That is why the BPA and the Department of Energy are enacting measures to combat high rates right now.

BPA has asked all its customers – residential, business and government – to cut their electrical consumption by at least 10 percent, on average, beginning Oct. 1 for the next two years. At Hanford, where the governing federal agency is also the agency responsible for the governing of the nation's energy supply (the Department of Energy), the DOE Richland Operations Office and Hanford contractors have already begun the task of cutting electrical consumption to meet the BPA's request. Unnecessary lighting is being kept off. Projects that allow plants to conserve energy are voluntarily being pursued.

Each Hanford worker can do his or her part by using personal energy conservation practices at work and at home. Keep appliances, computers, lights and similar items turned off when not in use. Dress in layers so you can adjust your clothing, rather than being tempted to adjust the thermostat down during cooling season or up during heating season.

Stay vigilant for backsliding in energy conservation practices. Remind your family and co-workers to keep up the conservation measures.

Together, perhaps we can conserve enough energy to keep rate increases to manageable levels during this two-year crisis. ♦