



BPA seeks comment on temporary small generation policy

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration hopes to establish a short-term policy to encourage the use of small electric generation to help the Northwest meet its needs during the current energy shortage. Before implementing the policy in June, BPA wants to hear from the public on the details of the plan. A public meeting is planned for May 24.

The policy will encourage the immediate addition of electricity generation to help the region until planned long-term generation can be built. While BPA will not fund the construction of the generators nor buy the output, the policy complements the load reduction strategy BPA has with its customers. Customers who reduce their load on BPA by 10 percent would be allowed to use temporary small generators to supply a small portion of their needs.

BPA has asked its customers to reduce their demands on BPA so BPA can avoid expensive large power purchases in the wholesale market. Such purchases could lead to a triple-digit wholesale rate increase this October. The use of the small generators, along with other actions such as energy conservation, can help decrease reliance on BPA and thus help keep rates down. The generation plants would have to meet all applicable local, state and national regulations.

The temporary policy would apply from June 1, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2002.

A public meeting on the proposed policy will be held May 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Rates Hearing Room at BPA headquarters at 905 NE 11th Avenue in Portland. For more information call Robert A. Anderson at (503) 230-4151.

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