

Fleet Equipment Replacement FY 14 - 15

The equipment replacements identified in this investment will increase efficiency, increase electrical crew and fleet capabilities, reduce risk and improve safety. Systematic equipment replacements help modernize the fleet and allow the agency meet its environmental goals. A more modern and fuel efficient fleet reduces fuel consumption and emissions.

The average age of the equipment being replaced is 20 to 25 years, with many pieces over 30 years of age. In general, the utility industry replaces this equipment after 12 to 15 years of service due to metal fatigue, parts availability and escalating life cycle costs. At BPA, much of the equipment is used off-road and in more difficult conditions than in a typical utility. These conditions produce increased wear and maintenance issues.

The replacements reflect a strategy of maintaining equipment to safely meet its original design specifications and functional purpose. When continued maintenance and repair of equipment is no longer feasible, it is evaluated for replacement with consideration of its specific use and circumstances. Where similar equipment is used throughout the transmission system, bulk refurbishment and replacement programs are considered to achieve economies of scale. These replacements, guided by the fleet asset management strategy, also include a significant move towards standardization. Standardization improves the ability to maintain equipment with current personnel resources, increases operator familiarity with equipment across the system and reduces reliability and safety risks.