

Pacific Direct Current Intertie (PDCI) Upgrade

BPA owns and operates the northern section of the PDCI, which includes the Celilo Converter Station and 265 miles of high-voltage transmission line to the Nevada-Oregon Border (NOB). The Celilo Converter Station is now over 40 years old. The deteriorating condition of the equipment is leading to higher failures and lower reliability. Over the years, several upgrades have added layers of new technology over old and created a highly complex two converter per pole system that has become difficult to operate and maintain. This upgrade replaces the 4-converter terminal with a modern 2-converter terminal and enables an immediate capacity increase of 120 MW (from the present 3,100 MW rating to 3,220 MW). It also provides an option to increase capacity by up to 580 MW if additional investment is made by the southern partners and BPA. This project involves work on both the converter station and the associated transmission line.

Since 1970, the PDCI has produced huge economic benefits through northwest sales of low cost power to California utilities, displacing higher cost, more environmentally harmful thermal generation. This project is will sustain that benefit for another 40 years.