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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BPA hosts nation's largest regional science bowl

Students throughout the Pacific Northwest compete for \$85,000 in scholarships from 18 regional colleges and universities as well as entry into National Science Bowl

Portland, Ore. – As many as 130 teams of middle and high school students from across Washington and Oregon will compete in the nation's largest regional science bowl in the coming weeks.

The Bonneville Power Administration is hosting the annual BPA Regional Science Bowl for the 22nd straight year. The middle school competition is set for Jan. 26 with the high school students taking to the buzzer on Feb. 2 at the University of Portland. The top finishing team in both divisions will travel all-expenses paid to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl April 25-29.

“BPA has long been a regional leader in promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education,” said Bill Drummond, the deputy administrator of BPA. “The Science Bowl is a wonderful venue for us to encourage and celebrate these young minds, many of whom will be our future innovators and leaders in the energy industry.”

Beyond the prestige of winning and the prospects of the national competition, BPA and Science Bowl volunteers have worked to establish partnerships with area universities and colleges to offer scholarships for the top three competing teams in the high school division.

“In all, 18 colleges and universities in the Northwest have graciously lent their support with \$85,000 in available scholarships to the top competing teams in order to make their own statement about the importance of science, technology, engineering and math education,” said Terry Esvelt, a BPA retiree and Science Bowl volunteer for more than two decades.

In addition to the competition, throughout the day, demonstrations and hands-on activities will take place at the event site. In the afternoon, a separate engineering

competition allows teams that have not advanced to the double elimination to test their engineering and design skills in a hands-on project.

Both divisions will feature special speakers who will share their own unique experiences with science and technology:

- **At the middle school competition, Evan Thomas**, assistant professor and director of the SWEETLab (Sustainable Water, Energy and Environmental Technologies) at Portland State University, will share his experiences in researching, designing and distributing sustainable systems for water purification, cooking, heating and sanitation to populations in need around the world. He'll also talk about technologies his lab is developing for sustaining life aboard spacecraft.
- **At the high school competition, John Miller**, the chief technology officer for FLIR Systems, based in Wilsonville, Ore., will discuss the many applications of infrared technology. He will draw on his experiences, ranging from conducting infrared investigations on the left wing of the space shuttle Columbia to the first thermal measurements of Haley's Comet, to expose students to the opportunities available in a science career. Miller has written four textbooks and more than 60 professional and academic papers, as well as provided briefs for national and congressional committees and two U.S. presidents.

The more than 600 students in the competition come from public and private schools in western Washington and western and central Oregon – from as far north as Bellingham to as far south as Ashland. Many of the students will practice for months in advance of the competition in both group and self study. The competition is as intense as any sporting event, particularly at the high school level.

“To a ‘T,’ these teams are motivated by a love of science – they’re energetic, passionate and get into the spirit of the competition,” Drummond said. “One of the things we get to do is to celebrate that passion – students have a multitude of opportunities to be recognized for athletic accomplishment through school-sponsored and club sports, but there are precious few venues for students to be recognized for academic prowess. We want these students to feel good and special about their commitment to science, technology, engineering and math.”

The BPA Regional Science Bowl is sponsored by the University of Portland, Alstom Grid and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.

BPA REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL 2013

Where: Franz Hall, University of Portland, Portland, Ore.

When: Jan. 26, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Middle School); Feb. 2, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (High School)

Notes: The event is free to attend and open to the public. Championship rounds begin at 4 p.m. and take place in Buckley Auditorium.

More info:

www.bpa.gov/PublicInvolvement/CommunityEducation/ScienceBowl/Pages/default.aspx

Complete list:

www.bpa.gov/PublicInvolvement/CommunityEducation/ScienceBowl/Pages/Teams.aspx

BPA is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.

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