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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BPA hosts nation's largest regional science bowl

*Students from 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 135 teams of middle and high school students from across western portions of Washington and Oregon will compete in the nation's largest regional science bowl over the next two weekends.

The Bonneville Power Administration is hosting the BPA Regional Science Bowl for the 23rd straight year. The middle school competition is set for Saturday, Jan. 25, with the high school students taking to the buzzer on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the University of Portland. The top 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 24-28.

Beyond the prestige of winning and the prospect 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 teams in the high school division. In all, 18 colleges and universities in the Northwest are offering \$85,000 in scholarships to members of the top teams.

In addition to the competition, demonstrations and hands-on activities will take place throughout the day at the event site. In the afternoon, a separate engineering competition allows teams that have not advanced to the double elimination round to test their engineering and design skills in a hands-on project.

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, Wash., to as far south as Brookings, Ore. Many of them practice for months, in groups and individually, before the competition, which is as intense as any sporting event, particularly at the high school level.

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BPA sponsors the science bowl to showcase students' talents in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as to encourage them to consider careers in these fields. This helps to ensure a future labor pool of scientists and innovators so critical to the energy industry.

The BPA Regional Science Bowl is sponsored by the University of Portland, Google, Drexel University Online and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc.

BPA REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL 2014 – Middle School

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

When: Jan. 25, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

BPA REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL 2014 – High School

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

When: Feb. 1, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

More info: www.bpa.gov/goto/ScienceBowl

Complete list of teams for both middle school and high school:

www.bpa.gov/goto/ScienceBowlTeams

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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