

Ross gets clean bill of health from EPA

Years of work, \$10 million and a ton of cooperation later, BPA's Ross Complex got its final bill of health from the Environmental Protection Agency. Last month EPA passed BPA after a five-year review of the Ross hazardous materials cleanup effort. The review ensured that BPA's cleanup of the former Superfund site was effective.

BPA held a small ceremony at Ross in early October. Mark Maher, head of the Transmission Business Line, unveiled a plaque to mark BPA's successful project.

"We're proud of this accomplishment," Maher said. "It's a tribute to our employees and this plaque will serve as a reminder that BPA is a good neighbor," he said.

In 1996, EPA removed Ross from its Superfund list after its initial review of the site. Ross was placed on the list when the city of Vancouver, Wash., found contaminants in its drinking water from wells near Ross. Thus began an \$8 million investigation of all hazardous materials on the 250-acre site.

Officials ultimately found that the water contamination came from a



Superfund site marker – Employees gathered in Vancouver in October to dedicate a placque at the Ross Complex. It marks Ross's removal from the Superfund list. Mark Maher, transmission senior vice president (center), unveiled the plaque. Tony Morrell (right) was manager for the cleanup project and recently retired from BPA.

Photo by Sherry Lind

state-run motor pool. But BPA's efforts cleaned up hazardous materials in the ground at the Ross site. And the work didn't stop there.

"We dug 33 wells to monitor progress, worked to prevent future soil contamination and replaced 2,500 PCB capacitors," said Tony Morrell. The PCBs are a hazardous substance that had been used as a coolant in electric equipment.

Morrell served as manager for the Ross project before he retired from BPA in September. "Construction of the HazMat building in 1994 was even the result of our increased awareness of environmental issues," he said.

Cooperation was a big part of the success of BPA's project. BPA didn't dispute the EPA's findings at Ross. Instead, it worked closely with EPA and the Washington state Department of Ecology.

"The lesson for others is to focus on what needs to be done," Morrell said. "BPA didn't spend lots of money and time on disputes and legal fees. Instead, we put our money and efforts into the project to ensure that BPA continues to be a responsible neighbor." ◀

Linda Anderson is a writer for Transmission

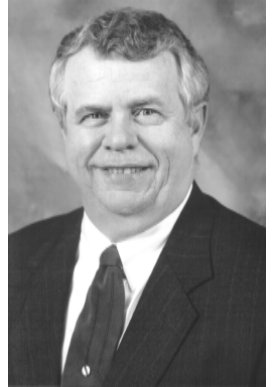
Top award to Johnson

Fred Johnson has received the top award for federal service. The Transmission Business Line vice president for field services last month got the Presidential Executive Rank Award. Only one to five percent of senior executives get the award each year.

The award goes to people who make extended contributions to the federal

service. A panel of private citizens selects awardees. Johnson didn't attend the Oct. 19 awards program in Washington, D.C. Instead, he went to TBL field meetings with workers around the region. Employee communications was one of the traits noted for his award.

Administrator Judi Johansen announced the award to Johnson at the Oct. 22 all-employee meeting. "Fred is one of those people who is truly dedicated to his staff, to BPA and to the spirit of public service," she said. ◀



Fiber optics could serve rural areas

More than 200 officials from rural Northwest towns attended a fiber optics conference in Spokane this fall. BPA and the Washington PUD Association sponsored the two-day event.

Mayors and town managers from Idaho, Mont., Ore. and Wash.

learned about all aspects of fiber optics. Speakers talked about the benefits and uses of fiber optics. Vendors showed their products and others discussed their services.

BPA has excess space on its system since it began installing more than 4,000 miles of fiber optic cable a few years ago. The new technology cable replaces telephone lines for communication. BPA strings the cable on the transmission grid to connect the agency's 365 substations and centers.

Since BPA has the excess space, public bodies and others in rural areas could lease the space. Thus, fiber optics is available to help rural areas where private firms may not provide the service. ◀

Employee dies after heart attack

BPA chemist Greg Hetland of Vancouver, Wash., died of congestive heart failure on Oct 14. He was 49.

Hetland was driving to work Oct. 13 on State Road 500. His car went off the road near NE Andresen Street when he suffered a heart attack. He was taken to Southwest Washington Medical Center where he died the next day. Hetland came to work for BPA in 1989. He worked the past several years in the chemistry lab at the Ross Complex and specialized in hazardous waste analysis.

Hetland was buried at Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and sons Jason and Jeremy of Vancouver. Memorial contributions may be made to the Glenwood Community Church, P.O. Box 70117, Vancouver, Wash. 98665. ◀



November Anniversaries

20 years

Lesley M. Johnson, Program Analyst, Corporate, Portland

Cathy L. Schaufelberger, Public Utilities Specialist, Interchange Scheduling

Thomas H. Von Muller, Economic Development Account Executive, Communication and Liaison, Spokane

Larry D. King, Public Customer Account Executive, Eastern Power Business Area, Burley

Donald Crossland, Lineman, TLM, North Bend

Teri J. Fuller, Substation Operator, Substation Operations, Olympia

Roger L. Whittaker, Electrical Engineer, Control and Protection, Portland

Sokom K. An, Electrical Engineer, HV Equipment, Vancouver

Lodia R. Davis, Cost Analyst, Operations & Planning, Vancouver

John S. Weston, Supply Systems Analyst, Process Management, Vancouver

Richard J. Teiper, Land Surveyor, Survey/Mapping/Photogrammetry, Portland

25 years

Judy R. McElhane, Executive Assistant, Executive Office, Portland

Joseph H. Frank, Mathematician, Information

System Development, Portland

Peter L. Yost, General Engineer, Construction and Maintenance Services, Vancouver

Porfirio V. Mendoza, Electrical Rigger, General Craft Services, SPC, Burley

Linda B. Coila, Office Manager, Walla Walla

Roy D. Brounley, Substation Operator, Substation Operations, Franklin

Roy D. Schelebaum, Electrical Engineering Technician, Substations, Portland

George K. Britt, Lineman Apprenticeship Coordinator, Technical Training & Continuing Education, Vancouver

30 years

Jan L. Portner, Visual Information Specialist, Audio/Visual Media, Portland

Jacob G. Thasevigen, Electrician Foreman I, Substation Maintenance, Chemawa

Douglas D. Douthit, Electrician, Central Electrical Services, Vancouver

Phillip R. Dungan, Lineman Foreman I, TLM, Redmond

Lawrence E. Tobkin, Data Systems Craftsman II, Control Center Hardware Maintenance, Vancouver

Marjorie L. Callanan, Procurement Technician, Materials Management, Vancouver

Dennis A. Wooley, Supply Systems Analyst, Materials Management, Vancouver

John H. Moore, Civil Engineering Technician, Survey/Mapping/Photogrammetry, Portland

Jack Leach, Computer Specialist, Telecommunication Service, Vancouver

Retirements

Richard L. Bemrose, HRMIS Project Manager, Employee Services, retired Sept. 25 with 34 years service

Eugene Davis, Jr., Electrical Engineer, Transmission Contracting, retired Sept. 24 with 33 years service

John R. Dolezal, Commodity Manager, Materials Management Logistics Services, retired Sept. 30 with 33 years service

Cue W. Elliott, Line Equipment Operator, Transmission Field Services, retired Sept. 30 with 28 years service

Jules Esztergalyos, Electrical Engineer, Control & Protection, retired Sept. 30 with 35 years service

O. Jane Franks, Public Utilities Specialist, Energy Efficiency, retired Sept. 25 with 32 years service

Patrick J. Fox, General Engineer, Contract Generating Resources, retired Sept. 30 with 31 years service

Wayne Gabel, Structural Engineer, Transmission Development, retired Sept. 30 with 33 years service

Mark L. Greathouse, Computer Specialist, Desktop Client Services, retired Sept. 30 with 20 years service

Patricia A. Hanson, Realty Assistant, Real Property Services, retired Sept. 30 with 20 years service

Harold W. Harsch, II, Lineman Apprenticeship Coordinator, Technical Training, retired Sept. 30 with 29 years service

Sharon Hart, Disbursement Technician, Disbursement Operations, retired Sept. 30 with 21 years service

Roy N. Hedahl, Computer Specialist, Shared Services, retired Sept. 30 with 33 years service

J. Patrick Higgins, Systems Analyst, Employee Services, retired Sept. 25 with 29 years service

Philip J. Jordan, Electrical Engineer, Information System Development, retired Sept. 30 with 29 years service

Patricha MacDaniels, Environmental Specialist, Pollution Prevention and Abatement, retired Sept. 30 with 25 years service

Anthony R. Morrell, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Analysis, retired Sept. 30 with 29 years service

Jerald K. Nielsen, Line Equipment Operator, Transmission Field Services, retired Sept. 25 with 24 years service

William W. Obley, Mechanical Engineer, Asset Utilization, Logistics Services, Support Services, retired Sept. 30 with 36 years service

James H. Partridge, Public Utilities Specialist, Generation Supply/Operations, retired Sept. 30 with 29 years service

Quintin D. Peasley, General Engineer, Design and maintenance, retired Sept. 30 with 41 years service

Francis M. Phillips, Electrical Engineer, HV Equipment, retired Sept. 10 with 29 years service

Frank E. Rausch, Auditor, Internal Audit, retired Sept. 30 with 31 years service

Jack Robertson, Deputy Administrator, Executive Office, retired Sept. 30 with 25 years service

Benjamin E. Stroup, Fiber Optics Implementation Specialist, Construction and Maintenance, retired Sept. 30 with 32 years service

Ronald G. West, Electrical Engineer, Telecommunications, retired Sept. 30 with 35 years service