



BPA pulls out all stoppers to reduce excess spill

Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore – The Bonneville Power Administration achieved twice the energy savings it had expected last year, making fiscal year 1996 one of the top-producing periods since its conservation efforts began more than 16 years ago.

In its recently released Conservation Resource Energy Data (Red Book), BPA announced that it saved about 60 average megawatts in FY 1996 (the 12-months ending Sept. 30, 1996). That's enough power to serve the annual needs of about 30,000 Northwest homes. The conservation target BPA set for FY 1996 was 30 aMW. Savings in FY 1996 were the fourth-highest since BPA's conservation programs began in 1982. The other three top-producing periods were FY 1983 (71 average megawatts), FY 1995 (70 aMW), and FY 1993 (62 aMW).

"It's ironic that during a year of virtually unprecedented change within and around BPA, we were not only able to double our conservation target, but we had one of our biggest performing years," said Terry Esvelt, BPA vice president of Energy Efficiency. "We're looking forward to more successes through our existing contracts as well as new, future efforts."

Deregulation is changing the electric utility industry faster than many believed possible. Some believed BPA would use the changing industry as an excuse not to pursue conservation. Not so, says Esvelt.

"We have always been and will continue to be committed to promoting efficient use of energy," said Esvelt. "We are changing our approach, but we are maintaining our commitment to conservation. By the time our existing programs are largely ended in 1999, we expect to be fully operating in our new mode and able to support our customers in new ways to achieve more efficient energy use."

In its final report published in December, the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System recommended that states pass laws requiring a uniform system benefits charge of 3 percent which would raise about \$210 million a year for conservation, renewables and low-income weatherization. While debate goes on over such laws, BPA continues to fulfill the commitments made through its traditional conservation programs for the residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors. In addition, BPA is pursuing an expanded approach to energy efficiency through the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and its partnerships with other energy-oriented organizations.

"By far, the greatest source of achievement came from our direct acquisition programs," said Vicki

English, customer services manager for Energy Efficiency. "Working with our customers, we concentrated our efforts in the industrial sector, where we were able to achieve greater numbers of megawatts at a lower cost than in the commercial and residential sector."

Since 1982, BPA has acquired about 640 aMW of conservation savings – enough power to meet the needs of more than 300,000 homes. Of that, about 440 aMW were acquired through direct conservation acquisition programs, such as Super Good Cents, Weatherwise and Energy Smart Design. Almost 100 average megawatts were acquired through BPA's conservation/modernization program, which targets conservation in the region's aluminum smelters. In addition to the direct acquisition programs, the promotion of energy-efficient residential and commercial building codes and residential and commercial Model Conservation Standards in Washington and Oregon helped account for about 100 average megawatts of savings.

English said BPA could not have been as successful without participation from its over 120 utility and direct-service customers who administered programs or installed measures that captured the energy savings. "I'm confident that our utility customers are prepared to achieve even more savings in fiscal year 1997, and we look forward to working with them to make it happen."

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