



Fact Sheet

May 2018

Energy Northwest: Delivering value to BPA and the Northwest

The relationship between BPA and Energy Northwest is unique among the Bonneville Power Administration's energy suppliers. Energy Northwest and BPA have a shared responsibility for the Columbia Generating Station that runs much deeper than a power purchase agreement.

The simplest statement of the relationship is that Energy Northwest owns and operates the Columbia Generating Station, the Northwest's only commercial nuclear power plant, while BPA funds the nuclear plant and markets its power. Bonneville and Energy Northwest both seek excellent plant performance as defined through measurements of safety, power generation, reliability and efficiency. Energy Northwest, a joint action agency of the state of Washington, currently made up of 27 of public utilities, also has helped BPA refinance and manage debt, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars in savings to BPA ratepayers.

Power benefits

Columbia is an integral part of BPA's energy portfolio. BPA provides about 30 percent of the electricity consumed in the Northwest. Of that, Columbia provides about 1,200 megawatts, or approximately 13 percent of BPA's firm energy resource, making it the region's third largest power resource behind Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams. That's enough energy for about one million homes or 4 percent of the region's power.

"Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station is a valuable, around-the-clock generating resource that supports BPA's mission of delivering reliable, clean and affordable power to our utility customers throughout the Northwest."

— **Elliot Mainzer**, administrator and chief executive officer, BPA



Columbia Generating Station



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Grand Coulee Dam, Washington



Chief Joseph Dam, Washington

OPERATIONAL BENEFITS

Columbia is an around-the-clock generating resource that supports BPA's mission of delivering reliable, clean and affordable power to its 142 electric utility customers and their nearly 3.5 million consumers. It is operated on a not-for-profit basis and complements federal hydropower by serving as a hedge against low water years and price volatility in energy markets. It also gives BPA additional operational flexibility by offsetting intermittent renewable resources, such as wind and solar, and reducing its generation in times of excess hydro generation.



Big Horn Wind Power Project, Washington

Environmental benefits

Comparing the Columbia Generating Station to the next most likely resource, natural gas, the operation of Columbia prevents about 3.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from entering the atmosphere every year via a combined-cycle gas turbine.



Columbia Generating Station

Financial benefits

Through its unique relationship, BPA and Energy Northwest have extended the maturity of existing Energy Northwest debt. This extension has preserved and restored a large amount of BPA's U.S. Treasury borrowing authority and resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in savings to ratepayers. From 2001 to 2012, through the Debt Optimization Program, BPA restored \$2 billion in Treasury borrowing authority and saved \$500 million in interest expenses. In 2014, Energy Northwest and BPA started a series of refinancing efforts, identified as regional cooperation debt, which is projected to save BPA ratepayers as much as \$2 billion in gross interest savings and restore up to \$2 billion of BPA's Treasury borrowing authority.