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March 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Ben Kujala

SUBJECT: Presentation from BPA on the oversupply outlook for 2013

Oversupply of electricity occurs when the minimum generation level of dispatched generators combined with non-dispatchable generation, such as wind power, exceeds the demand for energy. The Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinions (BiOps) requires minimization of Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) from hydro system spill. This increases the minimum generation level of hydro during periods of high runoff that typically occur in spring. The minimum hydro generation combined with increases in the installed capacity of the regional wind fleet has lead to oversupply conditions in the last two years. These conditions generally occur during evenings and weekends when loads are low.

During oversupply conditions, BPA has displaced non-hydro generation using its Oversupply Management Protocol (OMP). In 2011 around 97,500 MWh of non-hydro generation was replaced with hydro generation. In 2012, around 49,600 MWh of non-hydro generation, including wind generation, was replaced with hydro generation. The Council has worked with BPA and other regional stakeholders on methods to reduce the occurrence of oversupply through the Oversupply Technical Oversight Committee of the Wind Integration Forum.

At the Council meeting on March 12, Steve Kerns will present an update on the outlook for oversupply conditions this coming spring. Steve is the supervisor of Short-term Planning section of the Power Business Line at the Bonneville Power Administration.

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