



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 491
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

May 26, 2010

In reply refer to: T-Ditt2

Dear Customers

During the week of May 17, 2010, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) experienced restrictions on the West of Cascades North (WOCN) transmission path capacity due to two maintenance related outages: Olympia – Coulee 287-kV and Echo Lake – Monroe 500-kV.

Both outages were scheduled through the NWPP 45-day outage coordination process (COS). The first outage, originally scheduled to end the prior week, was extended to address safety issues involving a sagging conductor and tower realignment that was identified during the planned maintenance. The second outage involved spacer damper equipment and danger tree maintenance. These outages, including the extension, were also posted on our OASIS Outage page at <http://www.oatioasis.com/BPAT/BPATdocs/Outage.html>. The initial outages were posted as part of the Final Outage Plan for May on April 15, 2010, and on the OASIS Outage page on the second and third weeks of April for the respective outages. The combined outage, Olympia – Coulee 287 kV and Echo Lake – Monroe 1 500 kV, was posted on this page early on May 17, to start after midnight on May 18.

As a result of the combined outage, in various hours on May 18 and May 19, BPA curtailed transactions that contributed to congestion on the WOCN path. In addition, after several hours of curtailments on May 18, BPA issued a notice on the front page of its OASIS (a Network Congestion Validation Bulletin) to limit new sales. BPA stopped new hourly and new short-term firm requests (reservations) for transmission service that impacted the WOCN path and to mitigate adverse impacts on existing obligations.

We understand that the restrictions on new sales caused challenges for some customers. During this period, BPA explored all options to increase the path capacity, including redispatching Federal generation. Regional customers operated west-side generation to provide some relief to the path, and wind generators in the Balancing Authority Area experienced reduced reserves supplied from generation that impacts the path. In addition, throughout the constraint BPA staff continued to study the WOCN path limits to determine if additional capacity could be made available. Late on May 20, new path capacity limits that resulted from the revised studies were posted on the OASIS Outage page as a real time update. BPA also lifted the limits on new sales, which when posted, were effective late on May 20. Finally, the facilities were restored to normal operation as soon as possible: the Olympia – Coulee 287 kV line on May 21, and the Echo Lake – Monroe 500 kV line on May 22.

Our highest priority is to maintain the integrity of the Northwest grid. We are also concerned with how these actions impacted our customers. Therefore, we will be conducting a Lessons Learned exercise to assess customer impacts and to see what we can do better in the future to provide notice to prepare for these types of conditions in advance. We will share the analysis with customers by July 2nd.

Please contact your Transmission Account Executive if you have information you would like to have us consider regarding this event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Silverstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Brian Silverstein
Senior VP, Transmission Services