

6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

Pacific Northwest Coordination Agreement (PNCA)

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Record of Decision (ROD).

SUMMARY: The Administrator and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BPA, acting for BPA, and, as Chairman of the United States Entity (the Administrator of BPA and the Division Engineer, North Pacific Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)), acting on behalf of the United States Entity, has decided that the 1964 Pacific Northwest Coordination Agreement (PNCA) should be revised and retained.

To facilitate the implementation of the 1997 PNCA, BPA, the Regional Director of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the Division Engineer of the Northwestern Division (formerly the North Pacific Division) of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have decided to clarify each agency's role and responsibility under the 1997 PNCA in a Memorandum of Agreement.

This decision is consistent with the Columbia River System Operation Review (SOR) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0170, November 1995) which evaluated the potential impacts of five alternatives for regional coordination.

ADDRESS: Copies of the SOR Final EIS, Appendix R of the EIS (which presents the environmental review for the PNCA), and complete copies of this ROD are available from BPA's Communications Office, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. Copies of the documents may also be obtained by calling BPA's toll-free document request line at: 1-800-622-4520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. Phil Mesa - PGPL-DITT2, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621, phone number (360) 418-2152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The current PNCA was executed in 1964 as an important component of regional plans to maximize the Northwest's hydro resource capability. Maximization also included the development of three storage projects on the Columbia River in Canada pursuant to the terms of the 1964 Columbia River Treaty between Canada and the United States (Treaty). These storage dams provide regulated streamflows that enable Federal and non-Federal hydroelectric projects downstream in the United States to produce additional power benefits. The Treaty requires the United States to deliver to Canada one-half of these downstream power benefits (known as the Canadian Entitlement). The non-Federal utilities of the region committed to provide a portion of the share of Treaty benefits required to be delivered to Canada. In return, the United States Government agreed to participate in coordinated operation. The Federal and non-Federal allocation was the subject of a separate ROD; the Canadian Entitlement Allocation Extension Agreement (CEAEA) ROD was issued on April 29, 1997.

The 1964 PNCA expires in 2003. The region's obligation to return Columbia River Treaty benefits continues, at a minimum, until 2024. The 1997 PNCA, which revises the 1964 PNCA, extends through 2024.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on July 18, 1997.

/s/ Randall W. Hardy
Randall W. Hardy
Administrator and CEO, Bonneville
Power Administration, and
Chairman, United States Entity

bcc:

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