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OJ.C.
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**BPA, fearing shortage,
budgets power purchase**

PORTLAND (UPI) — Anticipating a shortage of power, Bonneville Power Administration's proposed budget for fiscal 1981 includes for the first time funds to buy firm power, BPA administrator Sterling Munro said Monday.

The \$706 million budget includes \$25 million for buying firm replacement power.

"This is in recognition of an anticipated energy deficit in fiscal year 1981," Munro said, "especially in the event of critical streamflows and weather conditions. If that happens, BPA will not have sufficient resources to serve the firm load of all our customers even after curtailing industrial interruptible loads."

He said even with reduced forecasts of power use the construction of planned new power-producing facilities is so far behind schedule that deficiencies of 10% to 15% of

the total regional energy requirements are expected in five of the next 10 years.

Some of that construction lag is reflected in the so-called net-billing costs for two Washington Public Power Supply System nuclear plants. Those costs paid by BPA have risen \$81 million in the 1981 budget, part of an increase from the current budget of 77% in purchase power and wheeling costs.

Total purchase power and wheeling costs for fiscal 1981 are listed at \$270 million, or 38% of the budget.

BPA's total proposed budget for the year beginning Oct. 1 is \$158 million higher than the budget for the current year.

Because BPA is self-financing, from the sale of power and borrowing from the federal treasury, its funds do not have to be appropriated by Congress but Congress does approve the proposed spending.

The budget includes funds for four pilot projects in alternate energy sources as part of the \$91.6 million operation and maintenance figure. The projects financed in the budget involve solar water heating, home weatherization, irrigation pump testing and small wind-generation facilities.

Construction funds will total \$193.5 million with more than 60% going to continue work on 1825 miles of transmission line and 15 substations and energizing 148 miles of line and seven substations. The remainder is for additions to the system, including 386 miles of line and seven substations.

Munro said one major transmission system, the proposed Southwest Oregon service plan, requires specific approval by Congress. It would cost more than \$50 million and would provide a backup system for the Northwest-Southwest Inter-tie.

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