

BPA official says energy rates to stabilize

By Brian Bubak
Of the Emerald



Photo by Brian Bubak

Peter Johnson

Local electric rates should level off by the mid-to-late 1980's, according to Peter Johnson, administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration.

In a speech given at a Tuesday luncheon celebrating the 77th anniversary of Rotary International, Johnson predicted rates will start to reach a plateau when power plants in the Washington Public Power Supply System begin to produce electricity.

The present rate increases, which could be as high as 80 percent, may be followed by a rate increase of up to 25 percent in 1983, he said.

But that, Johnson predicted, should be the end of drastic rate increases through the end of the century.

Seventy-five percent of the proposed rate hikes is due to WPPSS debt service BPA is burdened with, Johnson said.

With \$4.5 billion invested in WPPSS plants 1, 2 and 3, Johnson said, BPA has a definite interest in what happens to our neighbor to the north.

Johnson blamed the termination of ill-fated WPPSS plants 4 and 5 on a dynamic technology, dramatic cost increases due to high inflation and ineffective management. Johnson suggested "mothballing" the plants as an alternative that would leave the option of re-opening the plants available.

Although he was "dissatisfied" with the choice of actions taken by WPPSS, he did acknowledge the need for action.

"I think 4 and 5 must be dealt with," Johnson said.

Johnson also emphasized the need for the BPA to retain its "fiscal integrity" in this time of rate increases and plant closures.

Their high bond rating, given by large eastern financial institutions, is an indication that the BPA is still

in good shape, Johnson claims.

Touting the BPA as an increasingly important factor in the region's economy, Johnson said BPA cannot afford to work inefficiently.

"There isn't room for spinning wheels," he said.

And the BPA is working hard to stay ahead of our moving economy, Johnson said.

With the Northwest Regional Power Act just 14 months old, Johnson says the BPA is well on its way to complying with the act's mandate of supplying power at the least possible cost, promoting energy conservation, developing renewable resources, protecting fish and wildlife and involving the public in regional power policy.

Extensive conservation efforts are being undertaken by BPA, according to Johnson.

Crediting the Eugene Water and Electric Board as the first northwest utility to join BPA's regional weatherization program, Johnson praised Eugene and Springfield residents for their whole-hearted support in conserving energy.

Energy conservation is much more than just a law to residents of Lane County, Johnson claimed, calling it "the ethic of consumption."

EWEB has completed more than 450 residential energy audits since signing with the BPA on December 1, 1981, Johnson said.

The utility has also insulated more than 1,500 water heaters and placed flow restrictors in more than 1,150 showers.

With the combined effort of all regional power utilities, the BPA will reach its conservation goal of 500 megawatts by 1985, Johnson said.

In response to the flurry of lawsuits following the termination of WPPSS plants 4 and 5, Johnson said such actions are to be expected.

Committee reverses trend

IFC approves \$1,300 in budget increases

By Rich Burr
Of the Emerald

Contrary to its record of cutting most budgets for next year, the Incidental Fee Committee Tuesday approved increases for five student groups.

The IFC has approved more than \$1330 over ASUO Executive recommendations after Tuesday's hearings. The committee had cut more than \$1400 from ASUO recommendations at the end of last week.

The YWCA received the largest increase, tentatively receiving almost \$2800 for next year — almost \$400 more than the ASUO recommendation. Most of the increase came from adding a paid assistant director and a \$100 boost in speaker allocations.

With fewer work-study students and more programs, an assistant director is needed to handle the complex situation, said Trudy Cooper, a YWCA representative.

The increase for speakers is necessary to keep funding at the lowest possible level while not affecting program quality, she said.

The YWCA budget will be reconsidered since its budget increase is unjustified when compared with other groups, such as the Chinese Students Association, said Xavier Romano, IFC vice chair.

The Chinese Student Association received an increase of about \$300, raising its budget to about \$3,300 next year. The \$300 figure was added to a Chinese New Year budget line item.

The ASUO Executive was a "little harsh" to recommend a 26-percent decrease in funding for the group next year, said IFC chairer Karsten Rasmussen.

The ASUO recommendation was only an estimate because the CSA did not submit its budget on time, said Alan Contreras, ASUO vice president of program administration.

The money for this year's Chinese New Year event was spent as IFC funds should be, said recently-appointed IFC member Robert Payne. A large number of non-Oriental students participated in the festivities this year, including himself, Payne said.

The Amazon Child Care program received nearly \$250 more than the ASUO recommendation, the increase coming in payroll assessment costs. The IFC approved more than \$6,000 for the program.

Comptrollers received nearly \$7,700, with its \$90 increase for next year also in payroll assessment. A \$2000 request for a new budget director position was denied.

Traditionally, the IFC has been responsible for initiating the budgeting process and making the first recommendations for ASUO-funded organizations, but the ASUO Executive has assumed this role the past two years, said comptroller Mark Bjorling.

Funding a budget director to make the initial budget requests would restore the traditional process, he added.

A new position would be a good idea, but should be an IFC staff post rather than a part of the Comptrollers office, said IFC member Steve Baldwin.

A highly qualified person, such as a former or present comptroller, would be the best person to hire, Bjorling said.

The IFC unanimously approved about \$400 for Associated Students of Landscape Architecture. The IFC exceeded the ASUO recommendation by granting a \$14 increase in printing and duplication funds.

In making its only cut, the IFC approved almost \$350 — a \$12 reduction — for the Recreation and Park Management Graduate Student Organization. The IFC has an unwritten policy prohibiting funding for job bulletins, which is responsible for the \$12 reduction, said IFC member David Gibson.

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