

## **Talk About sales-On-Demand: New power sales keep wind turbines spinning**

### **Local News**

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Portland, Ore. - As winds picked up May 12, the Bonneville Power Administration warned wind farms at 6:29 p.m.: Prepare to shut down wind turbines in four minutes. The turbines were generating about 600 megawatts more power than expected. The power system could not absorb any more.

For the first time, though, wind farms used a new mechanism BPA designed with wind operators and utilities to escape such a shutdown. They sold 330 megawatts of the unexpected energy for the following half-hour. That simple step delivered more wind power to regional customers, earned them more revenue and quickly eased pressure on the power system.

BPA canceled its warning. The turbines kept spinning.

Northwest wind producers have sold rapidly increasing amounts of power on such a short-term basis since BPA introduced

The May example was the first time the new program prevented the shutdown of wind turbines when the hydroelectric

Its success illustrates how the region's power system is swiftly evolving to handle the ups and downs in wind and

"Wind generates power in a different way than the system was used to, so we're making sure the power

Traditional power plants provided such steady output that utilities long bought and sold electricity on an hourly basis. B

The change lets the 27 wind energy projects connected to BPA's grid adjust their power sales more often to be

The expanded use of "intra-hour scheduling" is a major part of BPA's wind integration strategy, &

What happened May 12:

6:20 p.m. Wind gusts push wind energy generation 600 megawatts beyond what wind plants had scheduled to flow thr

6:25 p.m. BPA begins adjustments after wind farms sell 330 megawatts of the unexpected wind energy for the upcoming hour.

6:26 p.m. BPA nears limit of how far it can dial back hydroelectric generation without jeopardizing the stability of the power system.

6:29 p.m. BPA warns that 90 percent of reserve capacity is exhausted. Notifies wind plants to shut down turbines in force.

6:30 p.m. Half-hour power sales take effect, reducing pressure on reserves.

6:31 p.m. BPA cancels warning.