NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

25-06 Archived Resolution

IN OPPOSITION TO HOURS OF SERVICE REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES

In January of 2004 the U.S. federal government instituted new federal regulations limiting the number of hours that a holder of a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) can operate a vehicle. These rules are primarily aimed at preventing fatigue-related accidents by long-haul truckers, but are written in a broad manner that also covers other operators of equipment that require a CDL. This regulation adversely impacts many electric utility workers who are now required to have a CDL to operate electric utility service and line trucks.

Periodically electric utility workers must work long hours to restore electric service due to storms or other causes of outages. During these periods the utility holders of CDLs who operate the line trucks and related equipment only drive the trucks sporadically when the equipment is moved from one site of repairs to the next site of repairs, which is quite different from long-haul driving.

If electric utilities are not exempted from the new regulations they have few options to avoid sending crews home to comply with the regulations even though the crews are willing to continue working to restore electric service to customers. Clearly, restoring electric service in times of outages is both a high priority for electric utilities and for the customers who are out of service.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers joins the Northwest Public Power Association and other utilities in opposing to application of this rule to electric utility workers.

Accordingly, the Northwest Public Power Association calls on Congress and the federal government to immediately implement exemptions to the hours of service regulations for electric utility service vehicles, through transportation appropriations legislation or otherwise, and thereby not create unnecessary delays in restoring electric service when outages occur.

NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Origination Date: 2004 by Snohomish PUD and Lakeview L&P

Archived: