Monday, January 11, 2016

Legislative Announcements

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Public Power Industry Announcements

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Read more...

NWPPA 2016 Award Nomination Reminder

NWPPA has issued its 2016 Call for Nominations for the following:

- **Life Award**, **Paul J. Raver Community Service Award**, **John M. George Public Service Award**, **Distinguished Service Award**, and NWPPA’s newest award the **Homer T. Bone Award** *(Deadline to submit nominations for these awards is January 29, 2016)*

- **2016 Career Commitment to Safety Award** (Presented at the 2016 E&O Conference. Deadline for nominations is **February 12, 2016**)

- **2016 NWPPA Safety Heroism Award** (Presented at the 2016 E&O Conference. Deadline to enter nomination is **January 15, 2016**)

- **2016 NWPPA Excellence in Engineering or Operations Award** (Presented at the 2016 E&O Conference. Deadline for nominations **January 15, 2016**)

- **NWPPA Annual Safety Contest** (Safety Awards Presented at the 2016 E&O Conference. Deadline to enter is **February 12, 2016**)

Associate Member Announcements
NEEA announces 2016 board of directors

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Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Looking to plan your training for 2016 or view a catalog of training events? Click on the button below.

2016 eCatalog PDF

Check out these upcoming training events:

- **Employee and Labor Relations Basics**
  - February 4, 2016

- **Project Management**
  - February 10 — 11, 2016

- **Discipline: Just Cause and Due Process**
  - February 11, 2016

- **Senior Leadership Skill Series Session #1, Series #4: Lead Yourself**
  - February 16 — 18, 2016

- **Electric Utility System Operations**
  - February 17 — 18, 2016

- **Communication Styles**
  - February 17, 2016

- **Enterprise Risk Management: Adding Value to Your Organization**
  - February 23 — 24, 2016

- **Leadership Skills Series Session #4: HR Basics; Building a More Effective Workplace**
  - February 24 — 25, 2016

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Industry Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming public power meetings.

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RFP/RFQs

Utilities: NWPPA offers its utility members the opportunity (at no cost) to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. Reach out to NWPPA’s almost 4,000 associate member contacts that supply goods and services to the utility industry and might be interested in responding to your utility RFP/RFQ. For more information, contact Debbie K. at debbie@nwppa.org.

Associate Members: Make sure to check out NWPPA’s RFP/RFQ Web page to view utility RFP listings. Listings are posted as they are received by NWPPA.

New RFP posted January 8, 2015!

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Recent Industry Job Openings

View the job opportunities posted to NWPPA’s website in the past week.

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On This Day in History
Theodore Roosevelt makes Grand Canyon a national monument; Earhart flies from Hawaii to California; American League adopts designated hitter rule; and Paul Simon returns to Johannesburg, South Africa, with the blessing of the U.N.
President Obama announces State of the Union, regulatory priorities

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

President Barack Obama will deliver his final State of the Union (SOTU) speech on Tuesday, January 12. The earlier-than-usual date for the SOTU signals President’s intent not to be a “lame duck” in his last year in office and to continue advancing his priorities through Executive Orders and regulations, and cement his policy legacy before he leaves office at the end of the year.

Already the bloom of bipartisanship seen at the end of 2015 has faded, and Congress and the White House are likely to be at loggerheads all year. Although the President’s recent Executive Orders on gun-control measures may be the most politically charged, the Administration is expected to issue a slew of new regulatory efforts.

In the energy space, the Department of Energy (DOE) is expected to issue new energy efficiency rules covering computers, gas furnaces, dishwashers, pool heaters, air conditioners, walk-in coolers and freezers, vending machines, ceiling fans, fluorescent lamp ballast, boilers, ovens, and hearths. While efficiency rules are typically non-controversial, many small electric sector entities (including public power) balked when the DOE attempted to bar future manufacture of a type of water heater used in demand response systems. That controversy was resolved by enactment of the Portman-Shaheen energy efficiency law earlier in 2015.

One effort sure to draw controversy is the Administration’s intent to move forward with establishing a consent-based siting process for spent nuclear fuel (see related story below).
The Administration’s apparent goal is to get as many regulations as possible finalized before mid-May, to ensure that President Obama remains in office to veto potential legislation to block the initiatives.

In an immediate response to what they see as “executive overreach” by the Obama Administration, on January 7 the House passed the first two of what may be numerous measures to rein in federal rulemaking.

H.R. 1155, the Searching for and Cutting Regulations That Are Unnecessarily Burdensome (SCRUB) Act by Rep. Jason Smith (R–Mo.), passed by a vote of 245-174. The bill would create a Retrospective Regulatory Review Commission to review and identify rules that are no longer necessary and should be repealed.

H.R. 712, the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act by Rep. Doug Collins (R–Ga.), passed by a vote of 244-173. The bill aims to prevent “sue-and-settle” litigation, which GOP members say is often used by environmental groups to circumvent the regular rulemaking process. The bill would require federal agencies to share more information about consent decrees and legal settlements and allow outside parties to intervene in the litigation. Courts would have to account for public comments on the settlements before approving them.

Both bills were introduced last year and have Senate companions, but are not likely to be enacted into law. Instead, they will remain GOP “messaging” pieces given the lack of Democratic support in the Senate and certain veto threats from the President.

Date for White House budget submission announced

_Update provided by Morgan Meguire_

On January 7, the White House Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan announced via Twitter that the President’s budget for the next fiscal year (FY 2017) would be submitted to Capitol Hill on February 9 – a week later than the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 requires.

The budget submission is only a blueprint that reflects the President’s priorities as he enters into the final year of his presidency. This budget will shape many of the policy battles that will take place on Capitol Hill this year. Typically, Congress can be expected to make major changes in the President’s request as it crafts spending bills to fund the government.
Spare transformer company files for FERC declarations

Update provided by Morgan Meguire

On December 4, 2015, Grid Assurance LLC – a company created by AEP, Berkshire Hathaway, Edison Transmission, Eversource, Exelon, and Southern Company – filed a petition at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking a declaratory order on proposed rate treatments for the spare transformer equipment services it plans to offer electric utilities. Comments were due to the commission on December 28, 2015.

Grid Assurance was formed in June 2015 as a private sector option for a federal spare transformer program, like the one Congress directed the Department of Energy to develop in the energy provisions enacted as part of the 2015 transportation bill.

The Grid Assurance plan is designed to complement voluntary programs such as the Spare Transformer Equipment Program (STEP), coordinated by the Edison Electric Institute, and is in response to concerns expressed by Congress, FERC, and others about the length of time it could take to replace critical large transformers damaged by a natural disaster or deliberate attack.

Grid Assurance plans to make available spare transformers on a subscription basis, to companies that suffer equipment losses from terrorism, geomagnetic storms, electro-magnetic pulse, or other catastrophic events. The company seeks an order from the commission declaring that the proposed cost-based subscription fees for goods and services will be considered prudent investments by FERC-jurisdictional utilities, ensuring their recovery from consumers.

DOE invites comments on consent-based process for siting nuclear waste facilities

Update provided by Morgan Meguire

On December 23, the Department of Energy (DOE) published a notice in the Federal Register calling for comments on how to design a consent-based process for establishing “an integrated waste management system to transport, store, and dispose of commercial spent nuclear fuel and high-level defense radioactive waste.”
“Previous attempts to develop long-term solutions for storage and disposal of this waste have resulted in controversy, litigation, protracted delays, and ultimately a failure to address the problem,” the notice says. “Failure to dispose of nuclear waste has proven costly for energy ratepayers and taxpayers who are paying for the inability of the government to meet federal waste management commitments. States, Tribes, and others in the public carry the undue burden of hosting radioactive waste they were promised was only temporary.”

The notice says the integrated system could include:

- A pilot interim storage facility with limited capacity capable of accepting used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and initially focused on serving shut-down reactor sites;
- A larger, consolidated interim storage facility, potentially co-located with the pilot facility and/or with a geologic repository, that provides the needed flexibility in the waste management system and allows for important near-term progress in implementing the federal commitment;
- Deep borehole disposal, which could be an option for disposal of smaller and more compact waste forms currently stored at Department of Energy sites;
- A permanent geologic repository for the disposal of defense high-level waste and, potentially, some DOE-managed spent nuclear fuel, which would be generally less radioactive, cooler, and easier to handle, enabling a simpler design and earlier availability; and
- A permanent geologic repository for the disposal of commercial spent nuclear fuel.

The notice requests input on the following questions: (1) How can the DOE ensure that the process for selecting a site is fair? (2) What models and experience should the DOE use in designing the process? (3) Who should be involved in the process for selecting a site, and what is their role? (4) What information and resources do you think would facilitate your participation? and (5) What else should be considered?

Comments will be accepted through June 15, with the DOE holding several public meetings in various cities that will be announced in early- to mid-2016, with a final report to be produced by the DOE in mid-summer.

At an event announcing the strategy, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz acknowledged that the DOE lacks the authority to move forward with a consent-based siting process once it has gathered public input. Nevertheless, it indicates the intent of the Administration to advance the discussion of a new consent-based process while it is still in office.

NRC considering revamp of decommissioning rules
**Update provided by Morgan Meguire**

On December 28, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extended to March 18 the comment period on its proposal to update rules governing the process for decommissioning closed nuclear reactors. The prior due date was January 4 for comments on a wide range of issues related to the process.

The Decommissioning Plant Coalition and the Nuclear Energy Institute are working together but submitting separate comments on the rule, which requests input on emergency preparedness, worker certifications, the appropriateness of the three existing decommissioning paths, the appropriate roles for state and local stakeholders, and general “lessons learned” from reactors that have gone through or are going through the decommissioning process.

The rulemaking stems from a general recognition that many of the safety-related rules imposed on operating reactors no longer serve an effective purpose after a reactor shuts down and begins decommissioning. Under current law, reactors must individually apply for exemptions from these rules throughout the process.

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**FERC responds to Congressional call for PURPA conference**

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On November 25, FERC Chair Norman Bay responded to a letter sent to him by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Lisa Murkowski (R–Alaska), House Energy and Commerce Chair Fred Upton (R–Mich.), and Energy and Power Subcommittee Chair Ed Whitfield (R–Ky.) requesting that FERC convene a technical conference to examine implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).

The request was made as a result of the significant developments that have occurred in electricity markets since passage of the act, the members said. “Electricity markets, generation technologies, and investments in the electric grid have changed substantially since PURPA was enacted nearly 40 years ago as part of President Carter’s energy plan. Since then, competitive electricity markets and open access policies have emerged and matured, expanding the markets for new generation sources, particularly renewable energy resources.”
Bay's brief letter of response recognized the importance of the issues noted in the Congressional letter and acknowledged the need to re-examine PURPA. He told the members, “I have discussed the idea of a technical conference with my colleagues, and I have asked Commission staff to begin the necessary steps to hold one in 2016.”

CFTC adopts margin requirements for uncleared swaps: most end-users exempted

_Update provided by Morgan Meguire_

On December 16, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) finalized rules determining when swap dealers and major swap participants (MSPs) must collect margin from counterparties to uncleared swaps. As expected, the rules do _not_ require these entities to collect margin from non-financial end-users, including public power utilities.

The Dodd-Frank financial reform bill, enacted in 2010, indicated that end-users would be exempt from having to post margin (a sum of cash set aside to cover potential losses on a swap transaction). The loss of liquidity would make the entire transaction moot when entities intended merely to hedge commercial risk with the swap, end-users argued.

However, a prior proposal from the CFTC had indicated that swap dealers and MSPs could impose margin on any counterparty if their risk profile called for it. In response, Congress passed a provision in the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to more explicitly exempt end-users from margin requirements. The final rule confirms that end-users will not have to post margin in any circumstance.

House Financial Services Chair Jeb Hensarling (R–Texas) has called for repealing much of the Dodd-Frank law, and he intends to move legislation through his committee in 2016. However, it is unlikely that President Obama would sign such a measure.
Correction to the December 2015 Bulletin:

The Call for 2016-2017 NWPPA Board nominations article on page 6 incorrectly named the utility type of the one vacant utility member seat on our board of trustees. The correct vacant position is for a general manager from a Washington municipal, not a PUD.

For those utility members interested in serving on the NWPPA Board of Trustees, please submit a letter identifying the nominee’s desire to serve as well as some background information (bio with other community/industry service) to Terry LaLiberte, NWPPA Nominating Committee Chair, 9817 NE 54th Street, Suite 200, Vancouver, WA 98662. Board nominations may also be emailed to Anita Decker at anita@nwppa.org. Nominations for board seats must be received by February 1, 2016.

Lassen names Doug Smith as GM, bids farewell to Bill Stewart

January 1, 2016, marked the changing of the guard at Lassen Municipal Utility District (Susanville, Calif.) as General Manager Bill Stewart retired from the utility and Doug Smith, the district’s assistant GM, took the helm.

Stewart has served as the district’s general manager since March 2011; prior to his appointment as general manager, Stewart was the district’s accounting and finance manager for nine years.
Smith, who joined LMUD in May 2014 as assistant general manager, was named as general manager by the LMUD Board of Directors through a contract negotiated earlier in 2015 in anticipation of Stewart's retirement.

Prior to joining LMUD, Smith, who has an extensive utility industry background, served as assistant general manager at Grays Harbor PUD in Aberdeen, Wash. His duties included overseeing customer service, human resources, communications, and government relations.

Before joining Grays Harbor, Smith spent four years as a key account services engineer at Platte River Power Authority in Fort Collins, Colo., providing energy efficiency and power quality services to Platte River's four member municipal utilities. Prior to that, he worked for Energy Engineering Associates in Austin, Texas, performing comprehensive energy audits and providing mechanical design services for industrial and institutional clients.

“I feel very fortunate to be assuming the role of general manager at a time when LMUD is on sound financial footing and well-positioned for the future,” said Smith. “I’m also fortunate to have an excellent staff and board members that are committed to serving our community.”

Idaho Falls Power’s general manager to lead UAMPS

Jackie Flowers, general manager of Idaho Falls Power, was elected chair of the board of directors of the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) at the recent 2015 UAMPS Member Meeting in Salt Lake City. Flowers is the first woman to be elected chair of the UAMPS Board of Directors.

As the general manager of Idaho Falls Power, Flowers manages a staff of 68 employees and a $70-million budget. In addition to providing electric service, the utility owns and maintains four hydropower plants; maintains nearly 450 miles of transmission and distribution lines; and manages the city’s dark fiber optic network. She is a registered professional engineer with a background in civil engineering and more than 20 years of experience, 13 of which involving managing publicly owned utilities. Flowers is also the current secretary/treasurer of the NWPPA Board of Directors.
Flowers, who has served on the UAMPS board for a number of years, most recently has chaired two key committees: the Horse Butte Wind Project Committee and the Carbon Free Power Project Committee. The Horse Butte project, located 16 miles east of Idaho Falls, consists of 32 wind turbines generating 57.6 megawatts of electricity. The Carbon Free Power Project committee is investigating the viability of developing a small modular nuclear reactor project, possibly located on land owned by the Department of Energy’s Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls.

“This honor demonstrates the faith that her professional colleagues from UAMPS’ other 44 member utilities have in her judgement and leadership ability. The expanded board role comes at a time when UAMPS is poised to lead out with the Carbon Free Power Project. Among other things, this project is exploring the development of small modular reactor technology and could impact the electric power options for hundreds of thousands in eight western states,” explained Mayor Rebecca Casper. “I have full confidence in Director Flowers’ ability to add value to all of these discussions.”

Other UAMPS officers elected at the Member Meeting, included Jason Norlen, Heber Light & Power, as vice chair; Les Williams, Beaver City, as secretary; and Dwight Day, Oak City, as treasurer.

UAMPS is a joint action agency providing wholesale electricity and electric energy services to 45 public power utility members in eight western states. Established in 1980, UAMPS helps its members with planning, financing, development, acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of various projects for the generation, supply, transmission, and management of electric energy.

Northwest Requirements Utilities selects new CEO

Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU) has selected Roger Gray, a senior Northwest public power executive, as its incoming chief executive officer. Earlier this year, John Saven, the NRU CEO since its formation in 2002, announced that he will retire in April 2016.

Currently, Gray is the general manager (CEO) of the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), Oregon’s largest municipally owned power and water utility, a position he has held since April 2010. He is responsible for providing safe, reliable, sustainable, and economic power and water supply to 200,000 people. He provides the leadership, management, safety, and development of 525 employees at an entity with $900 million in assets and $300 million in annual revenues.

Between 1985 and 2004, Gray held a variety of senior level positions at Pacific Gas and Electric
Company (PG&E), including vice president and CIO. From 2004 through 2010 he founded an electric utility management consulting practice, Great Northern Exchange Consulting. Gray has a B.S. in electrical engineering and a B.S. in computer science from the University of California, Berkeley. Over the course of his career, he has been involved in a wide variety of civic activities.

“In Roger Gray we have found an ideal blend of senior level Northwest public power experience combined with a thorough understanding of the issues that are facing our industry in the years ahead,” said Doug Elliott, NRU Board president and general manager of Kootenai Electric Cooperative. “Roger will be a strong advocate on behalf of the NRU members with BPA, other industry entities, and within the broader community.”

“I am honored to be selected as the next CEO of NRU, and look forward with great anticipation to leading the organization to help achieve the board’s goals and objectives,” said Gray, who will relocate to the Portland area. “I want to thank the Executive Committee of NRU and the board of directors for this opportunity. Working with the board and staff, we can address a variety of issues facing mid- and smaller-sized public power systems, as well as challenges of our industry.”

“I want to acknowledge and thank John Saven both for his strong leadership of NRU since the beginning and for helping me with the upcoming transition,” continued Gray. “John is recognized as an industry leader in the Northwest and my hope is to meet the high standard he has set at NRU.”

NRU is a Portland based non-profit trade association of 53 public power systems that rely on the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) as their primary or exclusive supplier of wholesale electricity and transmission services. NRU members include municipals, PUDs, and other governmental entities as well as electric cooperatives, with members dispersed throughout the BPA service territory, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, and California. More information about NRU can be found at www.nru-nw.com.

Mason PUD 3 Commission officers set for 2016

Linda Gott, commissioner from District One, will serve as Mason PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.) Board president for 2016. Bruce Jorgenson, District Three commissioner, will act as vice-president; and Tom Farmer, District Two commissioner, will be secretary.

The commissioners serve as the governing board for PUD 3, which has about 600 square miles of service territory, with nearly 33,000 electricity customers. The PUD also operates a wholesale fiber optic telecommunications network, which supports the operation of its electric distribution services.
Fall River Electric’s Yancey marks 40 years at the co-op

In this day and age it is a bit unusual to find an employee who spends 40 years with the same company, but that’s the case for Trent Yancey at Fall River Electric Cooperative (Ashton, Idaho).

Yancey, a native of St. Anthony, Idaho, first came to work as a summer laborer and said, “The first day on the job I knew this is what I wanted to do.” And do it he has, advancing first to an apprentice lineman, then to a journeyman lineman for nearly 30 years, followed by advancements to foreman, staking technician, and being promoted to operations manager just over five years ago.

According to Yancey, the greatest challenge in all those years was after the Teton Dam burst in June 1976. Fall River Electric lost all of its transmission and distribution system from north of Wilford in Fremont County down to Plano in western Madison County. Using their own crew and just a small number of outside contractors, the system was rebuilt in less than six months.

“The work ethic of the staff of this co-op combined with their comradery is what has made this career so great,” added Yancey.
Yancey also credits the great recreational area he works and lives in as a reason to have never left Fall River Cooperative. He enjoys camping, hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, spending time at his cabin at Valley View in Island Park, and, along with his wife, following their three children and nine grandchildren in all of their activities.

“It has been a great career and it is not over yet,” said Yancey.

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**Silicon Valley Power going coal-free**

Silicon Valley Power (Santa Clara, Calif.) is ringing in the new year by going coal-free and announcing that it will no longer import coal-generated electricity, effective December 31, 2017.

SVP entered an agreement in 1983 for power from the San Juan Generating Station in New Mexico at a time when there were few clean alternatives available to supply the quantities of energy needed by electric utilities. SVP, which already distributes more than 50 percent of its power from carbon-free sources, began exploring its exit from the San Juan contract in 2011.

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**Lane Electric has energized Oregon’s first electric cooperative community solar project**

Energized on December 28, 2015, Lane Electric Cooperative (Eugene, Ore.) has flipped the switch on Oregon’s first electric cooperative community solar project.

“The 27.5-kilowatt, 84-panel solar system has been in the works for almost a year now,” said Lane Electric Manager of Member Services Dave D’Avanzo.

Renewable energy, specifically solar, is not new to the co-op. They have offered rebates to their members for home and business-based solar installations since the mid-90s; in 2012, Lane Electric partnered with King Estate Winery and SolarCity to install a one-megawatt solar system consisting of over 4,100 panels on a parcel of land donated by the winery.

The co-op based community solar project is projected to generate approximately 31,000 kilowatt-hours annually, which is equivalent to the energy use of two average households in Lane Electric’s service area. Subscription costs are $600 for the output from a half-panel and $1,200 for the output from a full panel. Lane Electric members have the option of financing the cost over 12 months on
their electric bills. Subscribing members can realize a credit on their electric bill of between $3 and $5 per month depending on the sun's rays.

The solar garden was originally conceived by the Lane Electric Board of Directors in 2013. It received the go-ahead in 2015 based on the level of interest and the desire to support solar shown by many of the co-op's members.

“We have a number of members who like the idea of solar but aren’t able to locate an array on their property due to trees, buildings, topography, and the like – things that inhibit solar access,” said Chris Seubert, Lane Electric’s board president. “Now, through the solar garden at our headquarters, our members can take advantage of the sun’s rays remotely. It’s kind of like country living on city water.”

The co-op’s community solar garden has been well received by its members. Many of the participants in the solar project are participants in the utility's MemberChoice Green Power Program and are interested in, and committed to, renewable energy resources. To date, 56 of the 84 panels have been subscribed and an additional 21 subscriber agreements have been requested.

“Our hope is that now that there are concrete, steel, and panels for our members to actually see we will fully subscribe the remaining panels and begin thinking about a phase-two project,” said Davanzo.

The co-op solicited bids from local solar contractors and entered into an agreement with Eugene-based Vince McClellan and his Energy Design team. The all-in cost for the solar project came in just under $150,000 before incentives and rebates. In the interest of being good stewards of Lane Electric’s resources, the board was adamant about the project not being subsidized by the entire membership. As such, Lane Electric’s solar team researched options for incentives and ultimately received a $12,215 solar incentive through EWEB and a $25,000 grant through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). The remainder of the project cost is financed based by MemberChoice power program and by members’ subscriptions to the energy output from the panels on the array.

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**Plumas-Sierra offers scholarships to local students**

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (Portola, Calif.) and its telecommunications subsidiary will be offering two $1,000 scholarships in a program designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of deserving rural students.

All interested students are invited and encouraged to apply. To qualify, the student or
parent’s/guardian’s primary residence in Plumas, Lassen, Sierra, or Washoe counties must be supplied with either electric power through Plumas-Sierra REC or Internet service through Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications.

Applications can be downloaded from their website and must be delivered to Plumas-Sierra REC by March 11.

Threatened chum salmon make Columbia River comeback

Northwest biologists are closely monitoring chum salmon this winter as they record what might be the largest run of Columbia River chum in 13 years. The 2015 run could be as high as 20,000, making it the largest since 2002.

The annual run of Columbia River chum salmon historically numbered more than one million. However, habitat loss and other factors caused their numbers to plummet during the last century to a low of just a few thousand per year. The federal government listed Columbia River chum as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1999.

Called “dog” salmon because of their canine-like teeth, chum are the last salmon of the year to return to the Columbia to spawn, and their young are the first to leave for the ocean in the spring. Chum salmon generally spawn in the lower part of the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, preferring tributaries where warm ground water pushes up through spawning gravel. The warm water quickly incubates their eggs.

The Bonneville Power Administration has funded two hatchery programs and construction of new spawning habitat for chum in several areas of the lower Columbia River. In 2011, BPA increased the capacity of two chum salmon spawning channels located on tributaries just below Bonneville Dam.

BPA, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal partners, manages river flows from Bonneville Dam to keep chum salmon redds (or nests of eggs) under water during critical times of the year. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is also building a new spawning channel for chum salmon on the Lewis River. It should be completed by summer 2016.

Check out NOAA’s Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.
ESCC releases statement regarding Ukraine outage

The electric power sector, with support from the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) and the government, is monitoring the situation in Ukraine where a suspicious power outage affected 80,000 customers for six hours on December 23, 2015. While there has been no confirmation that this was a malicious act, electric utilities in North America take their responsibility to protect their critical infrastructure very seriously and are following the investigation closely. In addition to rigorous security standards that help the industry protect and defend its systems, close coordination with government and other partners helps us to prepare for and respond to potential threats. The Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), E-ISAC, and our government partners will continue to work together to better understand the cause of the Ukrainian power outage and apply any lessons from the incident.

Montana governor appoints 27 to clean power panel

*Update provided by Karl Puckett, Great Falls Tribune (01/05/2016)*

Gov. Steve Bullock appointed a 27-member Interim Clean Power Plan Advisory Council on Tuesday that is charged with coming up with recommendations for steep carbon emission reductions to meet an EPA mandate.

Among the appointees are [NWPPA Trustee] Doug Hardy, general manager of the Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, which is headquartered in the Electric City.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized its Clean Power Plan rule Oct. 23.

It requires states to make large reductions in carbon emissions, including a 47 percent carbon intensity reduction in Montana by 2030. Carbon intensity is how much carbon there is in a megawatt hour of electricity.

Changing market conditions and the Clean Power Plan will affect all aspects of power production in the state, and Montana's coal industry will most notably face the stiffest challenges in the years ahead, Bullock said.

Roughly 50 percent of the Montana's power is generated by coal with the rest coming from renewable energy and natural gas sources.
“Done right, a Montana plan will drive economic growth and create and maintain good-paying jobs across Montana,” Bullock said in a news release. “It will improve upon our traditional base of energy generation while sparking a new generation of clean technology business, moving us to more renewable energy, and encouraging innovation, savings and energy efficiency for homes and businesses.”

Facilities that will be affected by the work of the committee are the four coal-fired generating units in Colstrip; Hardin Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant; a lignite coal-fired facility in Sidney; Colstrip Energy Limited partnership, a coal-fired facility outside of Colstrip; and Yellowstone Energy Limited partnership, a petroleum coke-fired facility in Billings.

Montana also produces about 43 million tons of coal annually and has the largest coal reserves in the nation.

Finding creative solutions that support the coal industry while coming up with recommendations for energy efficiency and the renewable energy sector are vital to protecting Montana’s clean air and water, Bullock said.

The council will gather information and provide recommendations to the state Department of Environmental Quality on policies and actions necessary to meet the mandate.

To read the entire article, visit http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2016/01/05/governor-appoints-clean-power-panel/78310936/.

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**Utilities update RCA on Railbelt grid upgrades**

*Update provided by Elwood Brehmer, Alaska Journal of Commerce (12/29/2015)*

Leaders of the state’s largest electric utilities submitted a draft plan to state regulators on December 22 outlining how they will address more than $900 million of needed infrastructure upgrades.

The early-stage business plan, developed in conjunction with Wisconsin-based American Transmission Co., is an update for the Regulatory Commission of Alaska on the utilities’ efforts to form the Alaska Railbelt Transmission Co.

A Railbelt region electric transmission company, commonly referenced as a TRANSCO, would eliminate the disparate management of the region’s aging electric transmission system and bring it...
under one entity.

In theory, operational savings drawn from sole control of the Railbelt’s transmission lines and substations would ultimately benefit ratepayers through lower electric rates. More important, perhaps, would be the ability to spur investment in and improve the reliability of Railbelt transmission infrastructure.

The six utilities, from Homer Electric Association to Golden Valley Electric Association in the Interior, signed a nonbinding memorandum of understanding with American Transmission Co. in December 2014 to examine the formation of a Railbelt TRANSCO.

Those six utilities provide about 80 percent of Alaskans with power.

The RCA released a report at the behest of the Legislature last June that was critical of the utilities’ collective lack of substantive action to form a TRANSCO, which is assumed to be the best path towards addressing the Railbelt’s electric transmission issues. If the utilities did not take meaningful steps to voluntarily form a TRANSCO, the RCA warned it would seek legislative authority to handle the situation itself.

The latest progress report to on a Railbelt TRANSCO projects a certificate of public convenience and necessity application, essentially a utility’s business license, could be submitted to the RCA by fall 2016. That could have a TRANSCO up and running by the spring of 2017, based on the utilities’ timeline.

The utilities expect to have the potential benefits of a TRANSCO validated and a fair cost-recovery structure for transmission assets settled by next spring. A detailed, formal TRANSCO business model would be developed at the same time.

The utilities would then take the agreements to their governing bodies — director boards and local governments — sometime next fall.

Which utilities participate in the TRANSCO will largely depend on the benefits that can be identified for their individual ratepayers, the report states.

If all six regional electric utilities participate, the TRANSCO would be governed by representatives from each utility, American Transmission Co., five independent directors and its CEO on a large board of directors.

NEEA announces 2016 board of directors

On January 7, 2016, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), a non-profit alliance of utilities and energy efficiency organizations working to accelerate energy efficiency in the Northwest, announced that Bob Stolarski, director of Customer Energy Management of Puget Sound Energy, will be its new board chair for 2016.

Stolarski succeeds Greg Delwiche, who retired from the Bonneville Power Administration in December as deputy administrator. Mark Gendron, senior vice president of Power Services, will serve as the interim board member from the Bonneville Power Administration. Clay Norris, power section manager of Tacoma Power, also joins the board in 2016, succeeding Chris Robinson, chief operating officer of Tacoma Power.

NEEA’s 20-member board consists of representatives from the Bonneville Power Administration; consumer- and investor-owned utilities; and public interest and efficiency industry organizations. The board also includes a governor-appointed representative from each of the four Northwest states.

Other members currently serving on NEEA’s board include Larry Blaufus, Clark Public Utilities; John Chatburn, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy Resources; Kevin Christie, Avista Utilities; Theresa Drake, Idaho Power; Jason Eisdorfer, Oregon State Representative; John Francisco, Inland Power; Andrew Grassell, Chelan Public Utility District; Margie Harris, Energy Trust of Oregon; Gary Huhta, Cowlitz County Public Utility District; Bob Jenks, Citizens’ Utility Board of Oregon (CUB); Michael D. Jones, Seattle City Light; Tom Karier, Northwest Power and Conservation Council; Garrett Martin, Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Mike McClanahan, Grant County Public Utility District; Cory Scott, Pacific Power; Jim West, Snohomish Public Utility District; and Deb Young, NorthWestern
Energy.

“Here in the Northwest, we are fortunate to have some of the foremost leaders in energy efficiency in the country,” said NEEA Executive Director Susan E. Stratton. “We rely on their guidance and direction to steer the organization.”

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) is an alliance of more than 140 utilities and energy efficiency organizations working on behalf of more than 13 million energy consumers. NEEA is dedicated to accelerating both electric and gas energy efficiency, leveraging its regional partnerships to advance the adoption of energy-efficient products, services, and practices. For more information, visit www.neea.org.
Calendar of Events

2016 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2016 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at Debbie@nwppa.org.

February 2016

14-17 – NRECA Annual Meeting & EXPO, New Orleans, LA

March 2016

7-9 – APPA Legislative Rally, Washington, D.C.
Submit an RFP or RFQ

NWPPA offers its members the opportunity to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. For more information or questions, contact Debbie K. at debbie@nwppa.org or complete the form below.

CURRENT RFPs/RFQs

15-72 Supply of Overhead and Underground Transformers

Offered by: Chelan PUD

Response deadline: February 2, 2016

Must be received by 2:00 p.m.

Posted on: January 15, 2016

Sealed bids will be received by Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, at the office of the District, Attention: Mark Belton, Procurement and Contract Services, 327B North Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801, until 2:00 pm, Pacific Time, Tuesday, February 2, 2016, for supplying all labor, materials, tools, equipment, facilities, and all other appliances and supplies as specified, and performing all work required in accordance with the Contract Documents.

The Contract Documents, in whole or in part, may be available in read-only format at http://www.chelanpud.org/cf/PCS_Bids. Prospective Bidders may obtain Contract Documents in electronic format from the Procurement and Contract Services Department. Requests are accepted online at http://www.chelanpud.org/cf/PCS_Bids, or in writing to P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807, or by telephone at (509) 661-4479 or (888) 663-8121, extension 4479, or may be viewed in person at 327B N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington. The District makes every effort to insure the completeness of the electronic file. If there are any questions, please contact the
Procurement and Contract Services department at the number stated above.

No pre-bid site inspection has been scheduled for this Project. If you have questions, please contact the Project Manager below:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
P.O. Box 1231, 327 North Wenatchee Avenue
Wenatchee, Washington 98807
Telephone: (509) 661-4182, or toll free at (888) 663-8121, extension 4182.
Attention: Jack Nieborsky

The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, to waive informalities, and to accept any bid which is in the District's best interests.

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**Real Estate Broker Sullivan Creek Powerhouse**

**Offered by:** Pend Oreille PUD

**Response deadline:** February 18, 2016

Must be received by 2:30 p.m.

**Posted on:** January 8, 2016

Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (the District) is seeking the services of a licensed commercial Real Estate Broker (Broker) to provide services for marketing one (1) surplus property owned by the District.

The property to be sold is the Sullivan Creek Powerhouse, located in Metaline Falls, WA. The powerhouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Respondents must be a licensed commercial and/or multifamily Real Estate Broker in good standing in the State of Washington. Respondents will not be debarred or prohibited from performing work on public works projects. Respondents must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in listing and leasing commercial and/or multifamily properties.

Interested parties may obtain a complete Request for Proposals packet by contacting the District’s Contracts Administrator at (509) 447-9345. Statements of Qualifications must be received **no later than 2:30 p.m., (Pacific Standard Time) February 18, 2016.** Submittals may be sent to:

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District
Contracts Administrator
P.O. Box 190
N. 130 Washington
Newport, WA  99156

Minority- and women-owned firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The District is an equal opportunity employer. The successful candidate will enter into a Consultant Services Agreement with the District.

Bid No. 33 RFP For Refrigerator Recycling Program

Offered by: Silicon Valley Power Santa Clara, CA

Response deadline: January 27, 2016
4:00 PM

Posted on: December 6, 2015

Advertisement & documents can be found at:
http://www.siliconvalleypower.com/Home/Components/RFP/RFP/327/2240

- Department: Silicon Valley Power
- Category: Bids
- RFP Number: 33
- Start Date: 12/04/2015 10:30 AM
- Close Date: 01/27/2016 4:00 PM
Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

Manager of Business Development – Valley Electric Association
Risk Analyst – Energy Resources – Avista
Multifamily/Commercial Real Estate Sales Consultant 2 or 3 – NW Natural
Electrical and Control Systems Planner – Eugene Water and Electric Board
Telecommunications Engineer (Level I, II, OR III*) – Snohomish County PUD
Senior Transmission & Distribution Specialist – PacifiCorp
Broadband Outside Sales Representative – Valley Electric Association
Chemical Spray Truck Driver (U15-187) – Portland General Electric
Chief Financial Officer – Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative
Construction Supervisor – Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc
Electric Operations Manager – Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Electric Program Supervisor – Energy Management – City of Redding
Electrical and Control Systems Planner – Eugene Water and Electric Board
Environmental Specialist/Scientist – Land Use Permitting and Compliance – Avista Corporation
General Manager – Brown & Kysar, Inc.
Human Resources Manager – Public Utility District #1 of Pend Oreille County

Hydro Communications Technician – Placer County Water Agency

IT Administrator/SCADA Specialist – Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc.

IT Engineer – Valley Electric Association

Journeyman Lineman – Chelan County PUD

Journeymen Linemen (multiple) – Idaho Power Company

Lineman Journeyman – Benton PUD

Manager, Fuel Supply and Contracts – Matanuska Electric Association

Multifamily/Commercial Real Estate Sales Consultant 2 or 3 – NW Natural

Network Architect and System Administrator – Valley Electric Association

Senior Transmission & Distribution Specialist – PacifiCorp

System Engineer – Delta-Montrose Electric Association

Work Flow Technician – Idaho Falls Power

View all available jobs
Theodore Roosevelt makes Grand Canyon a national monument

January 11, 1908

On January 11, 1908, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt declares the massive Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona a national monument. Though Native Americans lived in the area as early as the 13th century, the first European sighting of the canyon wasn’t until 1540, by members of an expedition headed by the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. Because of its remote and inaccessible location, several centuries passed before North American settlers really explored the canyon. In 1869, geologist John Wesley Powell led a group of 10 men in the first difficult journey down the rapids of the Colorado River and along the length of the 277-mile gorge in four rowboats.

By the end of the 19th century, the Grand Canyon was attracting thousands of tourists each year. One famous visitor was President Theodore Roosevelt, a New Yorker with a particular affection for the American West. After becoming president in1901 after the assassination of President William McKinley, Roosevelt made environmental conservation a major part of his presidency. After establishing the National Wildlife Refuge to protect the country’s animals, fish and birds, Roosevelt turned his attention to federal regulation of public lands. Though a region could be given national park status—indicating that all private development on that land was illegal—only by an act of Congress, Roosevelt cut down on red tape by beginning a new presidential practice of granting a similar “national monument” designation to some of the West’s greatest treasures.
In January 1908, Roosevelt exercised this right to make more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon area into a national monument. “Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is,” he declared. “You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is keep it for your children, your children’s children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.”

Congress did not officially outlaw private development in the Grand Canyon until 1919, when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Grand Canyon National Park Act. Today, more than 5 million people visit the canyon each year. The canyon floor is accessible by foot, mule or boat, and whitewater rafting, hiking and running in the area are especially popular. Many choose to conserve their energies and simply take in the breathtaking view from the canyon’s South Rim–some 7,000 feet above sea level–and marvel at a vista virtually unchanged for over 400 years.

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**Earhart flies from Hawaii to California**

January 11, 1935

In the first flight of its kind, American aviator Amelia Earhart departs Wheeler Field in Honolulu, Hawaii, on a solo flight to North America. Hawaiian commercial interests offered a $10,000 award to whoever accomplished the flight first. The next day, after traveling 2,400 miles in 18 hours, she safely landed at Oakland Airport in Oakland, California.

On May 21, 1932, exactly five years after American aviator Charles Lindbergh became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, Earhart became the first woman to repeat the feat when she landed her plane in Londonderry, Ireland. However, unlike Lindbergh when he made his historic flight, Earhart was already well known to the public before her solo transatlantic flight. In 1928, as a member of a three-member crew, she had become the first woman to cross the Atlantic in an aircraft. Although her only function during the crossing was to keep the plane’s log, the event won her national fame, and Americans were enamored with the modest and daring young pilot. For her solo transatlantic crossing in 1932, she was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross by the U.S. Congress.

Two years after her Hawaii to California flight, she attempted with co-pilot Frederick J. Noonan to fly around the world, but her plane was lost on July 2, 1937, somewhere between New Guinea and Howland Island in the South Pacific. Radio operators picked up a signal that she was low on fuel–the last trace the world would ever know of Amelia Earhart.
American League adopts designated hitter rule

January 11, 1973

On January 11, 1973, the owners of America's 24 major league baseball teams vote to allow teams in the American League (AL) to use a “designated pinch-hitter” that could bat for the pitcher, while still allowing the pitcher to stay in the game.

The idea of adding a 10th man to the baseball lineup to bat for the pitcher had been suggested as early as 1906 by the revered player and manager Connie Mack. In 1928, John Heydler, then-president of the National League (NL), revived the issue, but the rule was rejected at that point by the AL management. By the early 1970s, Charlie Finley, the colorful owner of the Oakland A's, had become the designated hitter rule’s most outspoken advocate, arguing that a pinch-hitter to replace the pitcher—a player that usually batted poorly, exceptions like the legendary Babe Ruth notwithstanding—would add the extra offensive punch that baseball needed to draw more fans.

At a joint meeting of the two major leagues in Chicago on January 11, 1973, presided over by baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, the owners voted to allow the AL (which lagged behind the NL in both scoring and attendance) to put the designated hitter rule into practice. The NL resisted the change, and for the first time in history, the two leagues would play using different rules. In addition, the introduction of the designated hitter (Rule 6.10) marked the biggest rule change in major league baseball since 1903, when it was decided that foul balls would be considered strikes. Though it initially began as a three-year experiment, it would be permanently adopted by the AL and later by most amateur and minor league teams.

On April 6, 1973—Opening Day—Ron Blomberg of the New York Yankees became the league’s first ever designated hitter. In his first plate appearance, he was walked on a full count by the Boston Red Sox pitcher Luis Tiant. From the beginning, baseball purists decried the designated hitter in bitter, moralistic terms, arguing that it took away from baseball’s integrity. The rift between pro- and anti-designated hitter fans has continued into the present day. At first, the designated hitter rule did not apply to any games in the World Series, in which the AL and NL winners met for the world championship. From 1976-1985, it applied only to Series held in even-numbered years, and in 1986 the current rule took effect, according to which the designated hitter rule is used or not used according to the practice of the home team.

Paul Simon returns to Johannesburg, South Africa, with
the blessing of the U.N.

January 11, 1992

In 1985, singer-songwriter Paul Simon made a controversial nine-day visit to South Africa — a visit that some felt was in violation of a United Nations cultural boycott, but a visit that dramatically increased worldwide awareness of black South Africa’s rich musical traditions. Seven years later, with the U.N. boycott lifted, Simon returned to South Africa to play a historic concert in Johannesburg on January 11, 1992.

The cultural boycott of South Africa was put in place during the late-60s and early-70s in response to the racist policies of South Africa under apartheid. With the vocal support of South Africa’s banned opposition party, the African National Congress, the United Nations barred South Africa from participating in international sporting events and cultural affairs. Because black South Africans were already barred from such activities under apartheid, it was hoped that an international cultural boycott would selectively punish white South Africans, breeding resentment and undermining support for the ruling National Party. While U.N. restrictions on trade and military support were only selectively respected by some of the most powerful nations of the world, the cultural boycott against South Africa held firm.

Paul Simon entered this picture after being turned on to mbaqanga and mbube—the music of South Africa's black townships—and conceiving the Graceland album, which would go on to be his most successful and important work as a solo artist. In the face of public criticism of his plans, Simon traveled to Johannesburg in February 1985, for recording sessions with South African artists like Ladysmith Black Mambazo, a vocal group largely unknown both to the outside world and to white South Africans, who had little opportunity under apartheid to hear the music of their black countrymen. The result of these sessions was a landmark album that sold millions of copies, won multiple Grammys and earned a place in the United States National Recording Registry in 2006.

It was only appropriate, then, that Paul Simon should be the first major international star to perform in South Africa after the lifting of the U.N. boycott. With the full support of the ANC and its recently freed leader Nelson Mandela, Simon performed before 40,000 cheering fans in Johannesburg’s Ellis Park Stadium on this day in 1992. It was a powerfully symbolic event that also underscored the limits of symbolism in addressing entrenched inequality; as the New York Times noted, “Most black South Africans could not afford to pay up to $30 for a ticket, or, lacking cars, to travel to Johannesburg from the outlying black townships.” As a result, the audience for Simon's historic South African concert was overwhelmingly young and white.