

Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**



August 2015
Volume 69, Number 8

Nuclear energy in the Northwest: today and tomorrow





On the cover: Three of the Energy Northwest team members who are helping the agency reach Excellence in Performance stand in front of the Columbia Generating Station: (L-R) Kaitlin Carter, Engineering; Ryan Downing, Maintenance; and Eddie Tubbs, Information Services. Photo provided by Energy Northwest.

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The *Bulletin* is a publication of Northwest Public Power Association, a regional organization of diverse utilities. The membership is made up of utility districts, electric cooperatives, municipalities, and Crown corporations in Alaska, British Columbia, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. We are also a trade association for nearly 300 companies, individuals, and organizations affiliated with the electric power industry.

Opinions expressed in single articles are not necessarily policies of the Association. For permission to reprint articles, write or call the associate editor.

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Celebrating our past with an eye on the future



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NWPPA Board approves new dues structure for 2016

In 2015, the NWPPA Board of Trustees had the foresight to assign a committee to work on NWPPA's dues and revenue structure to ensure we were planning ahead as we see the impact of flat and, in some cases, declining kilowatt-hour sales with our membership. In March 2015, the Dues & Revenue Committee made a recommendation to the NWPPA Board of Trustees to change the Association's dues structure (previously, dues were solely based on retail kilowatt-hour sales) to include two other attributes in addition to retail kilowatt-hour sales. As a result, dues will now be based on a three-factor formula: retail kilowatt-hour sales; the number of non-seasonal retail meters for commercial and residential customers; and the number of full-time employees. The committee also recommended to no longer charge extra for Education Sustaining Membership (ESM) dues; in 2016, all members will enjoy the lowest cost on classes, workshops, and conferences without paying extra to get the lowest ESM rates.

You may be thinking that a new dues structure means a dues increase — but here is the good news: by and large over 85 percent of our members will see a slight decrease in their 2016 dues! Any time you have a change in a dues calculation formula there are exceptions, and we do have a handful of members who will see a slight increase and even fewer who will have an increase greater than \$1,000. For these few, the NWPPA Board has approved a two-year stepped approach to help smooth the impact of the transition into the new formula.

Here is an example of an average utility dues calculation using the new three-factor formula compared to the current retail kilowatt-hour sales calculation:

Based upon the old dues calculation, a utility with 290,000,000 retail kilowatt-hours, 16,000 meters, and 50 full-time employees would have paid:

Approximate utility membership investment	\$12,900
Approximate Education Sustaining Membership dues	\$ 2,360
Total approximate dues	\$15,260

In 2016 with the new dues formula, a utility with 290,000,000 retail kilowatt-hours, 16,000 meters, and 50 full-time employees will pay:

Approximate utility membership investment	\$15,000
Approximate investment savings compared to 2015	\$260

Most importantly, the dues calculation change was not to increase our revenues. NWPPA has not had a dues increase since 2013 and we will not be increasing our overall dues revenue requirement; however, we were able to reduce our dues revenue requirement by \$100,000 for 2016. Our expectation is to retain every member as we go through this transition to the new three-factor formula and to continue to grow our membership. The NWPPA Board of Trustees believes this change will provide some membership cost stability over the next three years which will benefit all members.

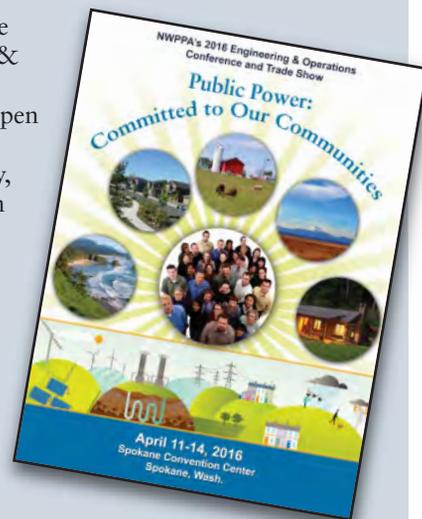
You will see information on this new dues calculation change a few more times in NWPPA publications before membership investment renewal letters are mailed in November. We look forward to continuing to serve your membership needs in the years to come. **NWPPA**

2016 E&O booth sales begin next month

Exhibit space for the E&O Conference & Trade Show in Spokane, Wash., will open on Tuesday, September 15, and close on Friday, October 16 — or when all booth spaces are sold.

Presales were held during the 2015 trade show in Tacoma last April. At the time this issue went to press, there were only 36 10x10 spaces and 2 20x20 equipment spaces still available.

If you did not purchase booth space in the April pre-sale and would like to be included in the September general sale, please contact Jenny Keeseey at jennifer@nwppa.org or (360) 901-3131. **NWPPA**



Trade knowledge with the experts at this year's Utility 3 Cs Workshop

On October 28-30, meet with your Pacific Northwest neighbors to learn more about their current issues and trade ideas about what has worked at your utility. As in the early days in the region when the Coeur d'Alene Tribe met to trade goods and information, this workshop by the beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene will be a place where you can meet with subject matter experts and your peers to exchange ideas. As an attendee, you will take away sound insights and advice that you can apply to your work.

Sessions and speakers include:

- *The Game Changers: Preparing for Tomorrow's Utility*, presented by Mark Johnson, Flathead Electric Cooperative
- *Bridging the Generations*, presented by Grant Axtell, Trajectory Consulting
- *Privacy, Security, Confidentiality — Oh, My!*, facilitated by Marty Holm, Tillamook PUD; and Doug Buchanan, Midstate Electric Cooperative
- *Emergency Preparedness: Safety and Security during a Crisis*, presented by Heather Allen, Cowlitz PUD
- *Going Digital! AMI vs. AMR*, presented by Keith Brooks, Kootenai Electric Cooperative
- *Credit Card Scanning and PCI Compliance*, presented by Kim Ingerslev, Professional Computer Systems
- *Email and Documentation Essentials*, presented by Jennifer Webster, Business Strategies
- *The Collection Agency Partnership*, presented by a representative of Evergreen Financial Services
- *Here Comes the Judge!*, presented by Jennifer Webster, Business Strategies

In addition to these formal presentations, there will be roundtable discussions on safety; privacy; the issues created by marijuana growers' large utility payments in cash; professionalism both in and outside of the utility; and pre-paid metering. On Wednesday, there will be an evening reception for networking and socializing; and on Thursday evening, there will be an optional dinner outing to Seasons of Coeur d'Alene.

As always, attendees are encouraged to bring something from their utilities or regions to contribute to the door-prize drawings; everyone will go home with a prize!

For managers and supervisors, there is a special pre-session class, *Managing in Changing Times*, on Tuesday, October 27. Grant Axtell of Trajectory Consulting will facilitate a day of instruction and hands-on exercises that will help managers and supervisors work effectively with the dynamics of a changing workforce. Topics include attracting and motivating Millennial employees; job flexibility and job sharing; delegating responsibilities to lead positions; and effectively managing the different generations. This class is open to managers and supervisors from all areas of a utility.

Both the workshop and the pre-session will be held at the beautiful Coeur d'Alene Resort right on the lake in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The hotel is just a block away from downtown restaurants and shopping.

For additional information, contact Bonnie McCombs at (360) 816-1446 or bonnie@nwppa.org. To register for the workshop and pre-session, visit www.nwppa.org. **NWPPA**

Save the date for the Alaska E&O

Mark your calendar for the week of October 26 for the 2015 NWPPA/APA Alaska Electric Utility Conference & Trade Show in Anchorage, Alaska. The conference and trade show, held every other year, is packed with educational classes, sessions, vendor displays, and networking opportunities for utility personnel in engineering, operations, generation, safety, environmental, information technology, materials, and fleet services. For more information about the event or to download a copy of the conference brochure, go to www.nwppa.org. **NWPPA**



A piece of NWPPA history: Legislation and energy crises

United States legislature and President Jimmy Carter responded to the energy crises of 1973 and 1979 by passing several legislative acts that deeply impacted, and continue to impact, NWPPA's members as well as the Association. The era produced many iconic positions and groups that are stalwarts in today's energy world; in 1977 alone, we saw the first Secretary of Energy (James Schlesinger) sworn in to office, the Western Area Power Administration established, and the Department of Energy created.

On November 9, 1978, the United States enacted the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) as part of the National Energy Act. PURPA was designed to promote energy conservation and promote greater use of domestic energy and renewable energy (in other words, reduce demand and increase supply).

President Carter signed the Energy Security Act into law on June 30, 1980. This one act consisted of six major acts that addressed everything from solar to renewable energy resources to conservation.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act), passed on December 5, 1980, addressed the impact that Columbia River dams and hydropower have on fish and wildlife. The act also established the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council), which is going strong 35 years later and is a current associate member of NWPPA.

NWPPA continues to stay abreast of legislative issues. We communicate information as soon as possible to our membership via the *Bulletin*, eBulletin, social media, and special training events when necessary. **NWPPA**

Don't forget to find the !

In each 2015 issue of the *Bulletin*, we will be hiding one diamond graphic (like this one ) somewhere in the magazine. For each issue, we will select a random person who has emailed the correct page and location to the associate editor at brenda@nwppa.org. The winner will be notified by the end of the month and receive a gift card from NWPPA.

July's diamond was on page 9 in the NWPPA/ APA 2015 Alaska Electric Utility Conference artwork.

Congratulations to July's winner: Ruth Kocha from Peninsula Light Co. in Gig Harbor, Wash.

NWPPA



A look back at public power

50 years ago — 1965

The Electric Consumers Information Committee elected American Public Power Association's (APPA) Alex Radin as chairman and re-elected NWPPA's Gus Norwood to the Executive Committee ... William T. Nordeen, manager of Northern Lights Inc., was elected to be the new president of the Sandpoint Lions Club (Idaho) ... Franklin County PUD announced that A. Carroll Northrup would be promoted from superintendent to manager at the end of the year when Harry Hudlow retires (Wash.) ... The City of Forest Grove won the E.F. Scattergood System Achievement Award at APPA's annual meeting (Ore.).

25 years ago — 1990

Coos-Curry General Manager Ed Schlender was re-elected to the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative Board of Directors (Ore.) ... The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) announced a new program, Billing Credits, that pays customers to conserve power ... The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers turned over operation and maintenance responsibilities of the Wynoochee River Dam to Tacoma City Light and the City of Aberdeen (Wash.) ... The response to a Sacramento Municipal Utility District request for power proposals to replace 850 megawatts by the year 2000 resulted in 94 proposals from 59 respondents totaling 8,669 megawatts; SMUD's current peak at the time was 2,100 megawatts (Calif.).

5 years ago — 2010

Larry Weis left his position of general manager and CEO of Turlock Irrigation District (Calif.) to become the general manager of Austin Energy in Texas; BPA chose the City of Port Angeles to participate in a pilot project for residential demand response (Wash.) ... Kimberly Harris became the new – and first female – president of Puget Sound Energy (Wash.) ... Coy Kratz retired from Emerald PUD; he had been with the utility since its inception 27 years ago (Ore.) ... Benton PUD, Mason County PUD No. 3, and Tacoma Power all received upgraded bond ratings (Wash.).

NWPPA

September, October, and November 2015

Please go to our website to view the full descriptions for these and other courses. www.nwppa.org.

DISTRIBUTION ENGINEERING SERIES: SESSION 2 — OVERCURRENT PROTECTION

Who Should Attend: Engineers and senior technical personnel involved in selecting and coordinating overcurrent protection devices.
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE (NIC)

Who Should Attend: Managers, communications staff, energy services staff, and renewable energy employees, as well as any employee and board member with an interest in these areas. *For more information, see page 3.*
SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2015 — LAKE TAHOE, NEV.

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING

Who Should Attend: Utility environmental professionals (new and experienced), government agency staff, vendors, and anyone who is tasked with or interested in environmental issues, regulatory compliance, or mitigation in the environmental arena of electric utilities.
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

HAZWOPER 8-HOUR FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS AND REFRESHER TRAINING FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: This is required training for first responders who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and need to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper people; also, individuals who respond to releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release.
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: ALL FOUR DAYS

Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive secretaries, and employees in administrative or service-oriented roles.
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 1 — CRITICAL THINKING AND DECISION MAKING SKILLS

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 2 — POSITIVE ASSERTIVENESS

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

NEW! SOCIAL MEDIA BOOTCAMP

Who Should Attend: Marketers, communicators, public affairs employees, and other interested employees. A working knowledge of Facebook and Twitter will be useful. *For more information, see page 3.*
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 — LAKE TAHOE, NEV.

NEW! SPCC AND NPDES FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: All employees with environmental responsibilities, including supervisors and managers that oversee environmental

programs; employees that design or implement oil spill prevention plans; and those involved in process, plant, construction, or storm-water discharges.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

NEW! HIGH-BILL INQUIRIES: BUILDING YOUR HBI TOOLBOX

Who Should Attend: Customer/member service and field representatives who respond to customer inquiries regarding their energy use.
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 3 — ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS; TIME & STRESS MANAGEMENT

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 4 — PERSONAL STRATEGIES FOR NAVIGATING CHANGE

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015 — BEND, ORE.

CHALLENGING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Who Should Attend: Anyone who has completed at least two modules of the NWPPA Utility Accounting Certificate Program, or anyone with significant utility accounting/finance experience.
SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2015 — RICHLAND, WASH.

OPERATIONS MANAGER & LINE SUPERINTENDENT BOOTCAMP — SESSION 1

Who Should Attend: Newly appointed operations managers, line superintendents, and those who have leadership potential. (Please note that courses in the series are intended to be taken in order; this series is intended to create a cohort that completes the courses together. Attendees that start the series with Session 1 will be given priority before others are allowed to register. A wait list will be created for those not able to register.)
SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

WAREHOUSE SERIES SESSION #1: INTRODUCTION TO UTILITY WAREHOUSING — RECEIVING, SHIPPING, AND SUPERVISION

Who Should Attend: Warehouse and materials management professionals.
SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

NWPPA MONTANA ENGINEERING SECTION MEETING

Who Should Attend: Engineering managers and staff from public electric utilities within Montana. (Only utility employees may attend this event.)
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2015 — KALISPELL, MONT.

FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP #2: LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES

Who Should Attend: Front line supervisors and managers, and those front line employees who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future.
SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR UTILITIES — ADDING VALUE TO YOUR ORGANIZATION

Who Should Attend: Chief financial officers, senior-level accounting staff, auditors, general managers/CEOs, policymakers, and legal counsel.
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

IT SECTION MEETING

Who Should Attend: NWPPA utility and associate members who are involved in the information technology aspects of their organizations.
OCTOBER 6, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

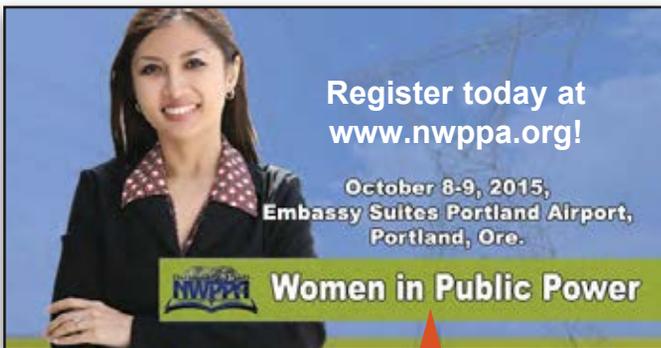
Who Should Attend: Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering; operations; safety; purchasing; information technology; regulatory and rates; customer service; public relations; legal; and accounting employees.
OCTOBER 7-8, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP SESSION #4: HR BASICS; BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: Front line supervisors and managers, and those front line employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.
OCTOBER 7-8, 2015 — WHITEFISH, MONT.

SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION OVERVIEW & INSPECTIONS

Who Should Attend: Line and substation personnel, distribution engineers, and supervisors who have responsibility for transmission and distribution substations.
OCTOBER 7-8, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.



NEW! NWPPA'S WOMEN IN PUBLIC POWER

Who Should Attend: Women in the power industry.
OCTOBER 8-9, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.

ONLINE: DISTRIBUTION ENGINEERING SERIES: SESSION 3 — OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION WEBINAR

Who Should Attend: Engineers and senior technical personnel involved in the selection and location of lightning arrestors and proper system grounding.
OCTOBER 14, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATION

FRAUD IN UTILITIES

Who Should Attend: All utility accounting staff, policymakers, managers, purchasing staff, engineering staff, and human resources staff.
OCTOBER 14, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

WAREHOUSE SERIES SESSION #2: UTILITY WAREHOUSE INVENTORY, RETURNS, AND AUTOMATION

Who Should Attend: Warehouse and materials management professionals.
OCTOBER 14-15, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

REVENUE METERING: INTRODUCTION AND BASIC APPLICATION

Who Should Attend: Metering, service, engineering, and operations personnel; service and meter sales representatives; purchasers of

meter products; supervisors; and other individuals who require an understanding of revenue meters.

OCTOBER 14-15, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

NWPPA LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ANNUAL MEETING (FORMERLY THE NORTHWEST WAGE AND HOUR ANNUAL MEETING)

Who Should Attend: Members of the NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations Group (formerly known as the Northwest Wage and Hour Group), which includes general managers, operations managers, labor relations professionals, and human resources professionals. Non-members may attend if they are part of a utility, are members of NWPPA, and it is the first time they have attended this group's annual meeting.
OCTOBER 14-16, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.

QUALIFIED WORKER TRAINING

Who Should Attend: Individuals who do not hold an electrical journeyman certificate, but as a part of their duties must enter or open secured areas such as substations, padmounted transformers, switchgear, vaults, and metering cabinets. Engineers, technicians, meter readers, and other operations personnel are required by OSHA 1910.269 to have this training.
OCTOBER 15, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

ADVANCED UTILITY ACCOUNTING

Who Should Attend: Senior level accounting staff, chief financial officers, and finance directors.
OCTOBER 15-16, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP #3 SERIES 3 — INSIDEOUT COACHING

Who Should Attend: Directors, managers, graduates of Front Line Leadership, and newly appointed senior leaders.
OCTOBER 21-22, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE: ENGINEERING SEMINAR: GROUNDING AND POWER QUALITY

Who Should Attend: Engineers, engineering technicians, and engineering supervisors and managers. *(Save \$100 by registering for both engineering seminars, this one and Power Factor and Harmonic Analysis.)*
OCTOBER 26, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE: LINEMAN SKILLS TRAINING

Who Should Attend: Linemen, linecrew foremen, substation personnel, electrical engineers, safety managers, and all personnel that would benefit from a theoretical and practical knowledge of AC transformers, regulators, capacitors, and grounding.
OCTOBER 26-27, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE CLASS: ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: Any Alaska electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering; operations; safety; purchasing; information technology; regulatory and rates; customer service; public relations; legal; and accounting employees.
OCTOBER 26-27, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

NWPPA/APA ALASKA ELECTRIC UTILITY CONFERENCE

Who Should Attend: Utility engineering and operations personnel in distribution, transmission, power supply, substations, as well as those in safety and environmental, information/operations technology, materials and fleet, or any area where a more in-depth knowledge of these areas would be beneficial.
OCTOBER 26-29, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR: POWER FACTOR AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS

Who Should Attend: Engineers, engineering technicians, and engineering supervisors and managers. *(Save \$100 by registering for both engineering seminars, this one and Grounding and Power Quality.)*

OCTOBER 27, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR UTILITIES — A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

Who Should Attend: Chief financial officers, senior-level accounting staff, auditors, general managers/CEOs, policymakers, and legal counsel. (Please note that attendees are not required to take Part 1 before taking this class.)

OCTOBER 28-29, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

3 Cs 2015 WORKSHOP: CREDIT, COLLECTIONS, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Customer service, credit, and collections employees. *For more information, see page 5.*

OCTOBER 28-30, 2015 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

STAKING TECHNICIAN PROGRAM — UNDERGROUND LINE DESIGN AND SUBDIVISION LAYOUT

Who Should Attend: Staking engineers.

NOVEMBER 2-5, 2015 — BOISE, IDAHO

FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP SESSION #5: SUPERVISING UNION EMPLOYEES

Who Should Attend: Operations directors, managers, line superintendents, labor relations professionals, and human resource managers who supervise union employees and deal with stewards and officers of the union. (This is an optional course in the Front Line Leadership Certificate Program.)

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3 — REDUCING CONFLICTS; COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering; operations; safety; purchasing; information technology; regulatory and rates; customer service; public relations; legal; and accounting employees.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM — JOINT USE STAKING AND MAKE-READY SURVEYS

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2015 — BOISE, IDAHO

ONLINE — WAREHOUSE CERTIFICATE SERIES SESSION #3: WEBINARS 1 & 2 — WAREHOUSE SAFETY AND WORKING WITH PEOPLE

Who Should Attend: Warehouse and materials management professionals.

NOVEMBER 4-17, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM — CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2015 — BOISE, IDAHO

FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP #3: PERSONALITIES AND ATTITUDES IN THE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: Front line supervisors and managers that have completed *Front Line Leadership Session #1: Situational Leadership*, as well as those front line employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future and have completed *Front Line Leadership Session #1: Situational Leadership*.

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES — ALL 3 DAYS

Who Should Attend: Linemen, linecrew foremen, substation personnel, electrical engineers, safety managers, and all personnel that would benefit from a theoretical and practical knowledge of AC transformers, regulators, capacitors, and grounding.

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 1 — AC TRANSFORMERS, ADVANCED THEORY, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Who Should Attend: Journeyman linemen, foremen/supervisors, engineers, and those involved in planning, scheduling, and engineering operations for a utility.

NOVEMBER 17, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 2 — AC SYSTEM TROUBLESHOOTING

Who Should Attend: Line and other operations personnel, such as metering, service, engineering, and other individuals, who require understanding of AC theory and how it relates to equipment used to troubleshoot problems.

NOVEMBER 18, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3 — REDUCING CONFLICTS; COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders. (Please note that classes in this series may be taken in any order.)

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2015 — ROSEVILLE, CALIF.

UTILITY HEDGING: MODELS AND ANALYTICS

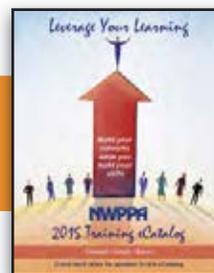
Who Should Attend: Utility managers and analysts interested in an introduction to quantitative analysis and risk analytics for the utility's wholesale power and fuels portfolio. Finance professionals, power marketing/trading personnel, risk management personnel, and auditors should also find this program useful.

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 3 — PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GROUNDING

Who Should Attend: All electrical workers involved in personal protective grounding.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH. NWPPA



Find more information on these and other courses at www.nwppa.org.

by Joe Harwood

EWEB already meeting clean fuel standard

While the Oregon Legislature passed a “clean fuels” bill in early March that requires the state’s transportation fuel industry to reduce the carbon in gasoline and diesel by 10 percent by 2025, the Eugene Water & Electric Board has already met and exceeded that new state standard.

More than 30 percent of EWEB’s fleet-related fuel needs in 2015 will come from alternative fuel sources such as ethanol (E15 and E85) and bio-diesel (B30).

In mid-March, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed the clean fuels bill into law, requiring the 10-percent reduction of carbon used in fuels throughout the state by 2025.

EWEB Fleet Supervisor Gary Lentsch estimates the utility’s alternative fuels program this year will achieve a 13-percent reduction in carbon emissions from fleet operations compared with 2009 levels, surpassing the state’s new clean fuel standard a full decade before required.

“The alternative fuels program is feasible,” Lentsch said. “Our customer-owners have asked us to reduce carbon emissions, and we’ve done that.” He added that EWEB is well on its way to reducing carbon emissions by 25 percent by 2020.

Alternative fuels, such as most types of ethanol, biodiesel, natural gas, electricity, and propane, have a lower carbon intensity (i.e. emit less carbon pollution) than conventional gasoline or diesel. EWEB’s diesel engine vehicles and equipment, for example, have been running on higher blends of biodiesel for almost four years.

Since approximately one-third of Oregon’s greenhouse gases come from transportation sources, using cleaner fuels is a critical piece of Oregon’s environmental and economic future.

Some lawmakers and the fueling industry objected to the new law on the grounds it would significantly raise the cost of gas and diesel; and transportation interest groups are challenging the new law in court. Yet California has a similar law, and it has resulted in a price hike of a half-cent per gallon, according to experts from that state.

EWEB’s Fleet Services has been using alternative fuels for almost four years as part of the utility’s greenhouse gas reduction goal. Using fuels that are blended with bio-diesel and ethanol for all vehicles and equipment, EWEB has been able to reduce carbon emissions significantly.

The additional cost for EWEB to use alternative fuel blends and reduce carbon emissions? Less than a penny per gallon.

“It’s been a journey over the last couple of years as we positioned the fleet to use more alternative fuels,” Lentsch said.



EWEB Fleet Supervisor Gary Lentsch fuels a vehicle with E85, a blend of ethanol and gasoline.

In July 2014, EWEB installed an on-site fueling station at the Roosevelt Operations Center as an efficiency measure, a cost savings, and to support the utility’s sustainable operations goals. This allows staff to customize fuel-blending needs depending on vehicle type, weather, and pricing. EWEB buys the blended fuels through a contract with Eugene-based The Jerry Brown Co.

EWEB’s alternative fuels program cost the utility less than \$15,000 last year, which works out to an additional outlay of less than one cent per gallon.

In addition to using alternative fuels, the utility added an all-electric van, and has replaced older passenger vehicles with two electric plug-in hybrids. “When you compare the

prices of some of the alternative vehicles that we have available today, we were able to green our entire fleet for less than the cost of purchasing one vehicle,” Lentsch said.

Earlier this year, EWEB’s Fleet Services department was recognized by the Columbia Willamette Clean Cities Coalition as the “Leading Public Fleet” for its aggressive alternative fuels program.

For its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, EWEB’s fleet operations has been recognized for its sustainability programs as being one of the Top 50 Green Fleets in 2014 by *Heavy-Duty Trucking* magazine. With a commitment to pollution prevention, EWEB’s fleet operations also achieved the Lane County Pollution Prevention Coalition’s Eco-biz certification, along with a CleanFleet, Tier 5 certification by the Coalition for Green Fleet Management.

In addition, EWEB’s fleet operations have been recognized as being one of the 100 Best Fleets in North America for each of the last four years and one of the top 50 Leading Fleets in 2014 by *Government Fleet Magazine*. These awards programs recognize fleet operations that are performing at a high level, along with their competitiveness and efficiency programs while planning for the future. **NWPPA**



Joe Harwood is the external communications coordinator for Eugene Water & Electric Board in Oregon. He can be reached at either (541) 685-7471 or joe.harwood@eweb.org.

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by Kristine Lindemulder

Keeping it local

Emerald PUD's Business Energy Rate Incentive program allows customers to purchase surplus energy at reduced rates



(L-R) Emerald PUD Customer Service Supervisor Alicia Burgess and Emerald PUD Energy Services Coordinator Rob Currier discuss BERI billing. Photo by Emerald PUD.

Emerald PUD has a longstanding commitment to delivering local benefits to its customers. The utility, which serves 21,000 meters in rural Lane County, Ore., was founded 30 years ago in order to increase reliability and reduce the rates paid under its predecessor. Over time, these goals have been achieved by offering innovative services and programs. The newest of these, known as the Business Energy Rate Incentive (BERI), has been in place since 2013.

Three years ago Emerald, like many other Northwest utilities, was faced with flat loads and low wholesale prices for surplus energy. The utility also found itself in the middle of a measurement period, during which the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would determine whether Emerald's load growth was enough to warrant it keeping a provisional amount of low-cost, Tier 1 energy. In order to encourage load growth and support its customers, Emerald decided to offer a special rate-incentive program.

The BERI program allows Emerald's larger customers the opportunity to purchase surplus energy at a rate much lower than retail. The discounted rate is applied to any incremental load beyond expected levels, as agreed upon by the utility and customer. With wholesale market pricing nearing historic lows over the past few years, the utility figured it would just assume sell any surplus locally and offer its own customers a discount. This, in turn, could encourage local economic growth

and help the utility maintain some of its provisional BPA energy.

In 2013, during the first round of the BERI program, a total of four industrial customers signed up. Each customer was assigned a baseline usage number based primarily on historical loads. Any usage above this baseline would be charged at a rate equal to then-current wholesale prices, plus a risk premium. Three of the four customers increased

“In the future, we may look at derivatives of this program, such as offering the BERI during particular hours of the day. We love the idea of partnering with our customers to deliver local benefits.”

Kyle Roadman,
Emerald Power Resource Manager

their usage above the baseline, and received a discount on this incremental load. One customer even added an extra work shift in order to take advantage of the program.

Emerald realized a variety of customer service benefits from offering the first BERI program.

“The BERI allowed us to be proactive in helping our customers, and also gave us a reason to have additional conversations with them,” said Rob Currier, Emerald’s Energy Services coordinator. “This was a great entry point to talk about other ways we might assist them.”

In addition to these customer service benefits, the BERI also helped Emerald reach its retail revenue targets for the year. After lackluster load growth throughout the first half, the incremental load from the BERI contributed to the utility exceeding its topline budget.

Following the success of the first BERI program, Emerald decided to offer the program again after an unusu-

ally warm winter season in 2015. With retail sales down and wholesale prices still low, the utility hoped the second BERI would produce results similar to the first. This time around, the program was opened to a larger pool of commercial and industrial customers, with a total of nine signing up to participate. Midway through the year, many of these customers were on track to exceed their baseline.

The BERI program is enabled in large part by Emerald’s purchase of the BPA Slice product, which entitles customers to a percentage share of the federal hydro system output. Because the amount of energy made available via Slice often exceeds the utility’s retail load, Emerald has the flexibility to offer this surplus to the wholesale market, or to its own customers.

“When given the choice, we’d much prefer to sell energy to our own retail customers at a discount rather than dump it as surplus into the wholesale market,” said Kyle Roadman, Emerald’s Power Resources manager. “The BERI is a great example of the kind of innovative, locally focused program we can offer as a Slice customer.”

Moving forward, Emerald hopes to build on the success of the BERI.

“In the future, we may look at derivatives of this program, such as offering the BERI during particular hours of the day,” said Roadman. “We love the idea of partnering with our customers to deliver local benefits.” **NWPPA**

Kristine Lindemulder is the communications coordinator at Emerald People’s Utility District in Eugene, Ore. She can be contacted at either kristine@epud.org or (541) 744-7410.



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If you have tree branches growing into overhead power lines, do not cut them out yourself. Call Idaho Falls Power or Fall River Electric and let them do an inspection. They can de-energize and even drop the lines to your house so trees can be trimmed safely, and will reattach and re-energize the lines when trimming is finished. If you're planting new trees, plant them at least ten feet away from power lines. For more helpful tips, call Idaho Falls Power at 612-8430, or call Fall River Electric at 800-632-5726.



Other than providing power to their customers, you might think that Idaho Falls Power and Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative don't have much in common.

One is an electric cooperative that provides power to nearly 16,000 members in three states, while the other is a municipal utility serving over 27,000 residents in a single city.

One maintains approximately 450 miles of power lines and 12 substations, while the other boasts nearly 2,500 miles of power lines and 28 substations.

But both Idaho Falls Power and Fall River Electric are proud public power entities with headquarters in eastern Idaho. Both have their own hydro generation yet rely on the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for the bulk of their electricity. And both are committed to providing safe, reliable electricity to their members/customers at a reasonable price.

They also share many of the same concerns: tree limbs interfering with power lines, inclement weather, and the safety of their customers and workers. They also share media outlets — three TV stations and a daily newspaper in Idaho Falls whose coverage areas stretch across eastern Idaho and into Wyoming and Montana.

With so much in common, it makes sense for the two electric utilities to combine their advertising dollars, a partnership that began in 2014 with a radio-based ad campaign on electrical safety.

“Increasing the impact of our messages is what prompted the arrangement,” said Van Ashton, Idaho Falls Power’s Energy Services manager. “But it’s also a more efficient use of funds and we have a lot of similarities — we’re both public power utilities with common goals and objectives.”

As a member of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and the Idaho Energy Authority, Idaho Falls Power has long pooled its resources with other utilities when buying electricity on the wholesale market, adding generation to its portfolio, and installing energy-efficiency measures under BPA’s Energy Efficiency program. (The Northwest Power Act of 1980 required public power entities that purchase energy from BPA to offer energy-efficiency programs to their customers.)

Shortly after Congress enacted the law, Idaho Falls Power began offering energy-efficiency programs.

It quickly became clear to Ashton, who was hired as Idaho Falls Power’s customer service manager in 1981, that few customers were aware of the program and that

An example of one of the print ads that Idaho Falls Power and Fall River Electric teamed up to produce.

After hearing Idaho Falls' Power's safety-themed ads on a radio station that serves all of eastern Idaho a year ago, Fall River executives approached Idaho Falls Power with the idea of pooling resources and the partnership was born.

and in the spring (when farmers are moving equipment into the fields, the cooperative's members are working on their property, and children are flying kites).

"We're pleased with the arrangement," Case said. "It seems to be very effective." **NWPPA**

Matt Evans is the Customer Relations supervisor at Idaho Falls Power. He can be contacted at (208) 612-8430.

outside advertising would be required to spread the word.

This was also true for electrical safety advertising, so when Ashton was approached about combining resources to purchase advertisements, he didn't hesitate.

"This was easy to put in place because of relationships already in place," Ashton said.

As non-profits, neither of the utilities boasts a massive advertising budget, and for years, the two utilities ran their own ads on the traditional mediums — radio, television, and a daily newspaper with coverage territories that overlapped the utilities' service areas — with very similar messages.

After hearing Idaho Falls' Power's safety-themed ads on a radio station that serves all of eastern Idaho a year ago, Fall River executives approached Idaho Falls Power with the idea of pooling resources and the partnership was born. The only potential sticking point was determining how to split costs, but a simple solution was proposed: base the expenses on each utility's meter count.

Since then, the two have paired up on several radio commercials and print ads, and they shared a booth at this spring's East Idaho Home and Garden Show.

The teamwork appears to be paying dividends. The phones were steadily ringing at Idaho Falls Power in May, when the two initiated a print ad touting a free service in which the utilities will trim tree limbs away from primary power lines.

Fall River Electric CEO Bryan Case said he's received quite a bit of feedback on the ads, all of it positive.

"That's the most important aspect, members hearing the message and hopefully heeding it," Case said.

The two utilities plan to continue to collaborate and would encourage others in similar situations to consider working together.

At Fall River Electric, Case said, the partnership has "really helped stretch our advertising dollar."

He points out that while electrical safety is important year-round, pooling resources has allowed the utility to run more targeted ads on their own during both the holidays (when electrical safety can be a huge issue because of holiday lighting, space heaters, and electric blankets)



About Fall River Electric

Fall River is a customer-owned, nonprofit electric utility providing over 16,000 connections in portions of three states, including eastern Idaho, western Wyoming, and southwest Montana, while operating four hydroelectric facilities that provide over 10 percent of the total power needed for their system. Fall River Electric provides safe, reliable, and renewable power — at the lowest cost possible — to its members. For more information, visit www.fallriverelectric.com. **NWPPA**



About Idaho Falls Power

Idaho Falls Power is the state's largest municipal utility, serving over 27,000 customers in Idaho Falls with 410 miles of distribution lines and 37 miles of transmission lines. It, too, owns and operates generating facilities: four run-of-the-river hydropower plants capable of generating one-third of the city's electricity needs (nearly 50 megawatts) in addition to a relatively small amount of wind and solar generation. For more information, visit www.ifpower.org. **NWPPA**

Dohrman named Franklin PUD power manager

Franklin PUD (Pasco, Wash.) recently hired **Holly Dohrman** as the new power manager for the utility.

Dohrman will be responsible for the management of power resource acquisitions, including load forecasts and purchased power requirements. The position provides input and oversight setting the strategic direction of the utility's power supply and projected load growth. She will also manage power supply contracts and participate in the administration of large commercial and industrial power sales contracts.

Dohrman has a business administration degree from Washington State University and has worked in engineering and GIS. Most recently she worked at Klickitat PUD as the power manager for the past four years; before that, she served as the energy services manager at Klickitat. **NWPPA**



Alameda's net metering rate changes

As of July 1, customers who are served under Alameda Municipal Power's (Calif.) net energy metering (NEM) rate schedule saw a slight reduction in the compensation they receive for the net surplus electricity they send to the grid, from \$0.0572 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.0555 per kilowatt-hour.

Under NEM, customers not only avoid paying AMP's retail rate for renewable generation that is used, but they are also eligible to receive compensation for any net surplus electricity that is sent to AMP's electric grid, per state law SB 920. For any excess generation, these customers are paid the average of AMP's costs for renewable energy, which is updated annually.

The reduction is due to AMP paying off the debt on its geothermal generation, resulting in a drop in the price AMP pays for renewable energy. **NWPPA**

Tillamook raises money for ACS

A team of Tillamook PUD family and friends raised more than \$9,100 for the American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life event held July 11 and 12 in Tillamook, Ore. The PUD has had a Relay team for 16 years, raising more than \$84,000 for cancer research, education, advocacy, and patient services. Congratulations to all involved! **NWPPA**

Ely Community Solar Project kicks out kilowatts

Construction on Benton PUD's Ely Community Solar Project is on schedule with the project producing energy for the first time on July 1. The Ely Community Solar Project is the first to be built locally.

The cost of the project (\$375,000) is funded by customer participation. Benton PUD commissioned the project to meet the growing interest from customers who want to invest in solar for the environmental attributes and the financial incentives currently being offered by the state.

Participants began receiving a proportionate credit last month on their electricity bill for the solar energy produced by the project as well as the state energy production credits.

Benton PUD sold 1,500 units of the project for \$250 each. The customer interest exceeded expectations with 429 customers requesting 5,840 units. A random drawing of interested customers was held.

The project, constructed by A&R Solar, has 272 solar panels manufactured by Itek Energy of Bellingham, Wash., and is mounted in an array. The total power generation capacity of the project will be 75 kilowatts, enough energy production to power about six average homes annually.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on July 22, 2015, at the project site. The project is located at Benton PUD facilities located in Kennewick, Wash. **NWPPA**

PNUCC announces new executive director

Last month, Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) announced that **Shauna McReynolds** will be taking on the role of executive director. McReynolds has served as interim executive director since **Dick Adams** retired earlier this year.

"I'm excited to carry on the tradition of regional cooperation and the mission of PNUCC as our members focus on the dynamic policy and power issues shaping the business of the electric power industry here in the Northwest," McReynolds said.

McReynolds brings 33 years of experience at PNUCC to the role, and was the deputy director for 20 years.

"This is a time of transition at PNUCC and in the region," said PNUCC Board Chairman **John Prescott**. "In her new capacity as executive director, we're confident Shauna will lead the organization through this change and assure that PNUCC continues to add value to its members."

McReynolds began her new role on August 1, 2015.

NWPPA

Bruff, Denison recognized by Mason No. 1

Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.) celebrated 10-year service milestones for Lineman **Barney Bruff** and Commissioner **Karl Denison** at the PUD's annual employee picnic at Potlatch State Park on June 19.

Bruff began his career at the PUD as a water technician before transferring to the electric crew to start a line apprenticeship, for which he is in his final year. Denison is the commissioner for District 1, representing the Union area.

In a brief speech addressing the group, General Manager **Steven Taylor** congratulated Bruff and Denison on reaching 10 years of service and thanked them for their contributions to the District and its customer/owners. **NWPPA**



(L-R) Mason County PUD No. 1 Commissioner Karl Denison and Lineman Barney Bruff.

Chelan extends large load moratorium

Seeking to protect low electric rates for customer-owners, Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioners extended the moratorium on accepting applications for new electric service of one average megawatt (aMW) or more, and expanded it to cover all applicants seeking high-intensity power use.

In keeping with the recently adopted strategic plan, board members decided that more information is needed to ensure “the best for the most for the longest” as set out in the 2015 — 2019 plan. The action extends the moratorium on those new applications until another hearing on December 7, 2015, and defines high-intensity energy users as those with plans to use 250 kilowatt-hours of electricity, per square-foot, per year or more.

Andrew Wendell, Customer Service director, said this new and growing electric load uses power at a rate 10 to 100 times greater than typical Chelan County businesses. PUD staff has found that energy use intensity (EUI) is a characteristic of data processing operations such as bitcoin (digital currency) miners.

In asking the board to extend the moratorium, Wendell said PUD staff will use the time to develop rates and policies that address the financial impact on the electric system of high-intensity users. Updated rates and policies can help protect the low electric rates for the District's existing customer-owners, he said.

Commissioners put the moratorium in place last December after hearing that the 34 inquires received last year for possible new electric load totaling 220 aMW was “unprecedented.” **NWPPA**

Doumit reaches 30-year milestone

Wahkiakum PUD (Cathlamet, Wash.) Lead CSR **Janna**

Doumit recently celebrated 30 years with the PUD. Commissioner **Gene Healy** presented an engraved watch to her to commemorate her years of service.

In a letter to Doumit, the Wahkiakum Board of Commissioners thanked her for her dedication and said, “We want to commend you on your ongoing dedication to the needs of our customers as well as the needs of the District. Over the past 30 years you’ve no doubt witnessed many changes within the PUD. Your ability to adapt and assist in achieving the District’s goals is greatly appreciated.”

Doumit served as a customer service representative/account specialist before becoming the lead CSR/account specialist in 2002. **NWPPA**



(L-R) Wahkiakum PUD Commissioner Gene Healy and PUD CSR Janna Doumit.

SMUD employees remain committed to their community

As a community-owned, not-for-profit electric service, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Calif.) is committed to the well-being of the region it serves. Every year, SMUD partners with over 250 organizations on over 600 local events, investing considerable time and resources to help the region thrive.

At the core of SMUD's efforts is the dedication of its employees to Sacramento and the adjoining communities in which they live, work, and play. And nowhere is this dedication more clearly demonstrated than by the support those

Continued on page 18

employees provide directly to local organizations and non-profits outside of working hours.

For example, in 2014, SMUD employees contributed over \$350,000 to more than 300 nonprofit organizations through the SMUD Combined Charities program; since 2005, SMUD employees have donated more than \$2.7 million through the program. In 2014, more than 85 percent of SMUD's approximately 2,000 employees volunteered in the community. In total, SMUD employees volunteered over 20,000 hours last year. The SMUD volunteer program has grown more than 50 percent in each of the last two years.

"The time and energy our employees commit to local organizations is incredible," said SMUD CEO and General Manager **Arlen Orchard**. "SMUD has served this region well for over 65 years, and I'm very proud that our employees continue to serve even after the work day is done."

NWPPA

DeWitt fills Columbia REA's board vacancy

Columbia REA (Dayton, Wash.) announced the appointment of **Jay DeWitt** by the board of directors to fill the vacancy created by the departure of **William "Bill" Stonecipher** for District 3.

DeWitt graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1975 and from Washington State University in 1980 with a B.S. in agronomy. He worked for Monsanto from 1980 to 1990, and was a partner in DeWitt Ag Associates, a diversified farming company, from 1988 to 2006. In 2003, DeWitt co-founded Dumas Station Wines and presently grows the grapes and is the winemaker there. DeWitt has served on several other boards, often in leadership positions. For example, he served on the Northwest Grain Growers (formerly Walla Walla Grain Growers) Board of Directors from 1994 to 2003; was active in the Wheat Growers Association, serving as president of the Walla Walla County group and as the membership chairman for the state organization; and also served terms on both the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce and Walla Walla Wine Alliance Boards.

"I am excited to serve on the Columbia REA Board of Directors," said DeWitt. "I am interested in being of service to my community, and believe that well-run cooperatives can provide superior service to members."

Stonecipher resigned from the position in May 2015 for personal reasons. DeWitt began serving in July, and will serve through the remainder of the term at the annual meeting to be held in April 2016. NWPPA



Jay DeWitt

Norris chosen as Tacoma Power's power manager

Tacoma Power (Wash.) has selected **Clay Norris** to lead its Power Management section. Norris, who recently worked for the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), began working for Tacoma Power on June 30.

"When we interviewed Clay, we were able to check every box for what we were looking for in this role," said Tacoma Power Superintendent **Chris Robinson**. "He has 34 years of electric utility experience in similar roles. His recent years at NEEA will help strengthen Tacoma Power's already high-performing energy efficiency services. Professionally, he's a great fit; he will also fit very well into our culture."

Norris' responsibilities will include planning and managing the power supply portfolio; resource planning; marketing and selling on the wholesale power market; scheduling and dispatching electricity generated at Tacoma Power's dams; and managing the utility's energy efficiency services.

"In industry circles, Tacoma Power has a reputation for being well managed by outstanding professionals, so I am honored to join the team," Norris said. "I have a real passion for energy efficiency and for managing the costs and risks of supplying power to customers, so I'm delighted to serve in this role."

Since 2012, Norris has served as the director of stakeholder relations for NEEA. Prior to that he was the division director of power resources for Eugene Water & Electric Board, and served as senior vice president of planning and marketing at Electricities of North Carolina. NWPPA

Officers elected to Energy Northwest Executive Board

The Energy Northwest Executive Board elected officers at their public meeting last month in Portland.

Sid Morrison of Zillah will continue in his role as chair of the board; **Jack Janda** of Shelton will continue to serve as vice chair; **Lori Sanders** of Kennewick will continue as board secretary; and **Dave Remington** of Spokane will continue as assistant secretary. All will serve one-year terms effective July 1.

Morrison has served on the executive board since 2001. He is also the chair for the board of trustees at Central Washington University and the chair for the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance. In May, he received NWPPA's prestigious community service award for 50 years of public service.

Janda has served on the executive board since 2005 and on the Mason County PUD No. 1 Board of Commissioners since 2001.

Sanders has served on the executive board since 2010 and on the Benton County PUD Board of Commissioners

since 2005. She was elected secretary of the executive board in 2013, and currently serves as vice president of the Benton PUD Board.

Remington has served on the executive board since his appointment by Gov. Gary Locke in December 2004, he was re-appointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire in 2009 and by Gov. Jay Inslee in 2013. **NWPPA**

Grays Harbor PUD ushers in new computer system

On July 7, after months of training and preparation, Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.) officially pushed the button to activate its new customer service computer system. The product of a partnership with the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), the new computer system is one utilized by hundreds of utilities throughout the country and replaces a system which is gradually being phased out of use.

“I want to congratulate all the people who helped to make this a smooth transition and salute their dedication and professionalism,” said General Manager Dave Ward. “Our IT staff has been working tirelessly to move information from the old system and our accounting, customer service, and engineering staff has put in hours of training, including after hours and on weekends, to ensure that they were ready to deal with any issues that may have occurred during the adoption of the new system.”

Those preparations included a two-day closure of the PUD Customer Service office and drive-thru to allow staff to trouble shoot the new system ahead of the go-live date and deal with any technical glitches before they became major problems.

“We very much appreciate the level of understanding shown by our customers,” said Customer Service Manager Katy Moore. “Thanks to their patience, our staff was able to take two days to prepare for the final adoption of the new system and quickly correct any issues that arose as the new system was introduced.” **NWPPA**

Clark receives J.D. Power recognition eight years in a row

For the eighth consecutive year, J.D. Power recognized Clark Public Utilities (Vancouver, Wash.) for ranking highest in customer satisfaction among midsize electric utility providers in the Western United States.

The J.D. Power study measures customer satisfaction with electric utilities by examining six key factors, which cover all areas of utility operations: power quality and reliability; price; billing and payment; corporate citizenship; communications and customer service. In nearly all of these

categories, customers gave Clark Public Utilities the highest score in the West midsize segment.

“We’re fortunate in Clark County to be served by a public utility, owned by customers and operated at cost,” said Jim Malinowski, president of the Clark Public Utilities Board of Commissioners. “The staff takes our commitment to customer satisfaction very seriously and providing reliable, affordable electric service requires discipline across the entire organization. Our focus is on keeping expenses down and working efficiently year round.”

J.D. Power designs and finances the study, a standardized measure of satisfaction available for the electric residential utility industry. More than 102,525 residential electric utility customers throughout the U.S. responded online to the study. Based on these responses, the study compared 140 electric utility brands, collectively serving over 96 million households.

The West region covers Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. Midsize utilities in the report serve between 100,000 and 499,999 residential customers. **NWPPA**

Utility poles going up for OPALCO, Rock Island

OPALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) and Rock Island are making progress on their promise to improve wireless communications in the field for their line crews and for all first responders. The first five poles have been installed throughout the county, and the remainder (about 38 total) will be completed over the next 12-18 months. These poles will be equipped with radios that will utilize their 700 MHz LTE spectrum to transmit field communications to first responders, electrical system devices, and, eventually, end-user Internet connections.

This is a great example of how the two entities — OPALCO and Rock Island — will work together to leverage their resources to maximize the benefits of their cooperative grid control network. In this case, OPALCO is expanding its grid (electricity, fiber, and system devices) and deploying the licensed frequency that it purchased in 2014 to reach further into the field. Rock Island is managing the construction and deployment of equipment to utilize the wireless spectrum.

Once the primary goals of field communication and public safety are achieved, Rock Island will begin to offer fixed wireless Internet connections to a limited number of members within range and is in the early stages of development with a vendor who may be able to extend the reach of LTE services in San Juan County. **NWPPA**

PCWA water customers conserve 32 percent

Water use by Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.) customers decreased 32.25 percent in June compared to the base year of 2013, meeting the state mandate. The conservation results were presented to the PCWA Board of Directors at their meeting on July 16.

“Customer conservation efforts have been tremendous,” said PCWA General Manager **Einar Maisch**. “I am very proud of how PCWA’s customers have responded to this record drought. Meeting the state mandate is no easy task. Lawns are brown everywhere, and I understand and appreciate the burden this is for our customers.”

The conservation mandate, ordered by the State Water Resources Control Board, went into effect on June 1 and requires a 32 percent reduction in potable water use by PCWA customers. Conservation efforts are on track to exceed 32 percent for the month of July; through July 13, the agency and its customers have conserved approximately 36 percent.

This year, PCWA has taken approximately 24,500 acre-feet from PG&E’s Drum Spaulding System and pumped another 14,500 acre-feet of its Middle Fork Project water from the American River. This has put the Agency in a position to cut back its pumping for the remainder of the year and allow more Middle Fork Project water to reach Folsom Reservoir, which is already projected to reach record low levels by the end of September. **NWPPA**

We remember

Charity Lorraine Lisherness passed away on July 18, 2015, from complications of an accident during the Wilkeson National Handcar Races in Wilkeson, Wash. She was 47 years of age and resided in Aberdeen, Wash. Dennis Lisherness, her husband, and Ged West, her brother, both work at Grays Harbor PUD.



Lisherness was born on September 17, 1967, in Bellevue, Wash., to parents Rev. Gery A. West and Carmen G. West. She grew up in the Pacific Northwest and graduated from Lake Quinault High School. Her parents moved around when she was young, but at the age of 16, her family returned to Lake Quinault where she completed high school; there she also ran track and played basketball for Lake Quinault High School. It was here where she met her best friend and love of her life, Dennis Lisherness. On June 18, 1988, they were married, and on November 22, 1994, their daughter, Lunden, was born.

She graduated from the Body Mechanics School of Myotherapy and Massage in Olympia, Wash., and was a licensed massage practitioner who enjoyed teaching other practitioners to help them further develop their skill and technique. She owned Proactive Massage and Sports Therapy in both Cosmopolis and Aberdeen.

Lisherness loved running and competing in extreme races and lived for hunting and other outdoor sports. She competed in the Boston Marathon twice and several ultras, which are 30.07 miles.

She is survived by her husband, daughter, brother, and parents; as well as her sisters, Sharon “Candy” Calloway, Cameo R. Lorton, and Coral West Cornelius. A message of condolence or of a memory can be sent to the family at www.fernhillfuneral.com. **NWPPA**

Former Grant PUD manager **Robert William Gillette** passed away peacefully on July 4, 2015, at his residence in Gresham, Ore. He was 94 years old.



Gillette was born on July 9, 1920, in Lewiston, Idaho, and was the third child of Howard L. and Nettie L. Gillette. He graduated from high school in 1937 and then went to the University of Idaho and Oregon State College with interests in forestry and engineering.

In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and volunteered for parachute school in Fort Benning, Ga. He served in the 82nd Airborne throughout WWII, sharing the many unit awards of his regiment and division. In addition to parachutist wings signifying four combat jumps, he wore the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, and the European Theater Ribbon with six campaign stars and three invasion arrowheads.

Discharged in October 1945, Gillette returned to college under the GI Bill, attended Gonzaga University, and married Maida Johnson in 1946. In 1949, he was hired by the Grant County PUD in Ephrata, Wash. He remained at the PUD for 25 years, progressing from junior engineer to manager of the district, the position he held for 10 years. Retiring from the PUD in 1975, Gillette then joined the consulting firm of CH2M Hill in the Bellevue office as director of power generation; he retired from CH2M Hill in 1985.

Gillette was preceded in death by his wife; daughter, Becky Dunn; brother, Les Gillette; and sister, Betty Merrick. He is survived by his sons, Doug Gillette, Bruce Gillette, and Allen Gillette; grandchildren, Conor Dunn and Caitlin Ball; and great-grandsons, Noah Dunn and Rhys Dunn. **NWPPA**

ABB to divest U.S. cable factory

On July 6, ABB, a leading power and automation technology group, announced that it has signed an agreement to divest its Huntersville, N.C., cable factory to Southwire Company, LLC. Southwire is a leading North American wire and cable manufacturer headquartered in Carrollton, Ga. The parties have mutually agreed not to disclose the financial terms of the transaction. Closing is expected in the third quarter of 2015.

The sale of the Huntersville facility is in line with ABB's Next Level strategy to continuously optimize its business portfolio. ABB and Southwire will also pursue a business partnership to leverage the facility for the land cable portion of certain HVDC projects.

ABB pioneered HVDC technology over 60 years ago, and was the first to introduce voltage sourced converter (VSC) technology, called HVDC Light®, in the 1990s.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. **NWPPA**

Evluma releases ConnectLED™ tablet app

LED lighting manufacturer Evluma announced the release of ConnectLED™ v2.0, a wireless BLE (Bluetooth low energy) controls application designed to work with Evluma AreaMax™ LED luminaires at a range up to 150 feet. The new, enhanced application runs on an Android tablet and is available for sale immediately. Users can set dimming schedules, brightness levels, or quickly disconnect the luminaire from service.

ConnectLED v2.0 for the tablet consolidates the popular BLE keyfob remote with the powerful features of the PC application to create a single efficient, portable tool for controlling Evluma AreaMax luminaires.

“Unifying AreaMax controls on a conveniently sized tablet gives linemen greater accuracy and insight when communicating with the AreaMax. The interest and demand for LED controls is growing. The Android tablet product development platform will allow Evluma to deliver the tools our customers consider indispensable to successful energy and maintenance savings,” said Evluma VP of Sales and Marketing **David Tanonis**.

Formed in 2008, Evluma is committed to developing environmentally low impact LED lighting solutions that are affordable and long lasting. For more information, visit www.evluma.com. **NWPPA**



Tom Porter leaves Morgan Meguire

After more than 10 years with Morgan Meguire, **Tom Porter** has decided to take the position of legislative director for the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association. His last day with the firm was on August 7.

Porter has more than 15 years of federal legislative and campaign experience, including an expertise in Western resource issues. He joined Morgan Meguire in 2004 and served as the firm's vice president.

“Tom has been a terrific Morgan Meguire colleague and advocate for our clients for more than ten years. We will miss him but also realize that as a Navy Reserve officer, his new ‘customers’ and their issues will be well synced with his military history and strong sense of duty,” said Morgan Meguire President and CEO **Deborah Sliz**. “Please join us in wishing Tom the best in his new post.”

Prior to 2004, Porter served as senior staff to House Armed Services Committee Chairman **Duncan Hunter**. Prior to his tenure with Rep. Hunter, Porter was a House Resources Committee legislative aide and liaison to the Western Caucus for Rep. **John Doolittle**. Porter began his career on Capitol Hill on the staff of Rep. **Connie Morella**. He has also consulted for numerous political campaigns nationwide, including Rep. **Dan Lungren's** 1998 California gubernatorial bid and many House races.

Lieutenant Commander Porter is a public affairs officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, with service since 1996. He has served on active duty overseas twice in support of the global war on terror. His tours have included media operations assignments with NATO's ISAF Joint Command in Afghanistan and with the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet/Navy Central Command in the Arabian Gulf. He has excelled at gaining critical media coverage of U.S. and Coalition operations by U.S., Arabic, Afghan, and international media.

Founded in 1998, Morgan Meguire is a government relations and consulting firm that offers unparalleled expertise in issues affecting the electric utility industry. For more information, visit www.morganmeguire.com. **NWPPA**

NISC adding new building to campus

On June 25, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), a leading provider of technology solutions to utility and telecommunications organizations worldwide, officially broke ground for their newest building at the Mandan, N.D. campus. This expansion will accommodate the current and projected growth of the IT cooperative as well as connect all buildings on the campus.

“Breaking ground on a larger facility reflects NISC's commitment to our growing membership and to North Dakota. We are very thankful for the community support



Continued on page 22

we have received,” said NISC Vice President of Member Engagement **Jasper Schneider**.

The groundbreaking was marked by speeches given by NISC President and CEO **Vern Dosch**; NISC Board of Directors Chairman **John Smith**; and Mandan Mayor **Arlyn Van Beek**. Smith, Van Beek, and NISC Team Lead Automated Mailroom Operations and Facilities **Jim Keller** shoveled the ceremonial dirt to officially begin the \$7.5 million project.

National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) is an information technology organization that develops, implements, and supports software and hardware solutions for its members/customers. Additional information can be found at www.nisc.coop. For the most up-to-date information on the expansion, follow NISC on Twitter @NISC_Coop. **NWPPA**

Two new products unveiled by EnerSys®

EnerSys®, the global leader in stored energy solutions for industrial applications, and its subsidiary Purcell® Systems introduce their new line of modular, thermally managed VaultFlex™ enclosures for telecommunications, cable, and utility applications.



Available with the industry’s widest selection of heating and cooling options, the new enclosures provide a secure, thermally managed environment for backup battery systems that ensures the most efficient thermal management solution with the lowest energy consumption.

EnerSys also recently introduced its EnerSys Home Solar Storage System™. The EnerSys Home Solar Storage System™ stores energy from renewable resources, such as sun and wind, throughout the day, allowing homeowners to optimize their power supply during periods of peak usage.



“Initially developed to help utilities stabilize the power grid and optimize renewable energy resources, EnerSys stored energy systems are now available to provide ‘behind-the-meter’ energy storage solutions for business, residential, and even single-dwelling applications,” said **Michael R. Kulesky**, director of marketing, energy storage and enclosures at EnerSys.

EnerSys manufactures and distributes reserve power and motive power batteries, battery chargers, power equipment, battery accessories, and outdoor equipment enclosure solutions to customers worldwide. For more information on EnerSys and its full line of products, systems, and support, visit www.enersys.com. **NWPPA**

Lightweight crimping tool developed by BURNDY

BURNDY®, a leading manufacturer and provider of connector and tooling solutions, introduces their new light-weight 15-ton C-Head crimper — the new PAT46LWS series. The PAT46LWS series has been designed with a new forged C-Head that offers a weight reduction of 34 percent over the existing design. Additionally, this new series continues to accept all standard BURNDY® P and U style crimping dies (w/PUADP-1 adapter). The PAT46LWS series offers customers the choice of ordering two battery platforms: 18V Makita Lithium-Ion or 18V Makita Nickel Metal Hydride, both offered in various configurations. Like all BURNDY® PATRIOT® battery tools, the PAT46LWS series incorporates the latest engineering technology with a patented high-speed hydraulic pump and field-proven electronics designed to provide a consistent, reliable connection every time.

BURNDY, headquartered in Manchester, N.H., has 90 years of dedicated customer support in both service and product. BURNDY is the only manufacturer to have the BURNDY® Engineered System of coordinating dies, connectors, and tools. For additional information, call (800) 346-4175 or visit www.BURNDY.com. **NWPPA**

Bash named president of FCS GROUP

FCS GROUP has announced that utility business and strategy expert **Scott Bash** has joined the firm as company president. Bash has 30 years of business experience within the engineering industry and complements the firm’s strengths in utility management, asset management, information technology, and organizational development.



“As the economy recovers, we’re beginning to see a lot of needs surface in the public sector, and it was time to identify leadership that could help us carry out our plans for sustained growth,” said FCS GROUP Principal **Karyn Johnson**.

Bash becomes the firm’s second president since being established in 1988 and joins Vice President **Taree Bollinger**, and Principals **John Ghilarducci**, **Karyn Johnson**, **Angie Sanchez Virnoche**, **Peter Moy**, and **Todd Chase**. As president, he will provide strategic direction and expand the firm’s technical capabilities in utility business management.

FCS GROUP was formed in 1988 to promote sound financial and economic decision making within city and local governments. For more information, please visit www.fcsgroup.com. **NWPPA**

by Terry Flores

Northwest hydro under attack — and fighting back



The federal hydro-power system is the Northwest's crown jewel of clean, renewable energy. It's also home to the largest wildlife restoration program in the nation. Yet hydro remains under heavy attack by so-called fish advocates at the regional and national levels: multiple lawsuits targeting the hydro system have been filed in the last two years alone.

Keeping alive their 20-year legacy of litigation are the usual suspects: Earthjustice, the National Wildlife Federation, Save Our Wild Salmon, and other local and national groups. Once again they are suing over the FCRPS Biological Opinion (BiOp), a plan that includes measures that mitigate the impacts of the eight large federal dams on 13 protected species of salmon.

The BiOp provides \$1 billion in habitat restoration funds and directs how the dams will be operated, including spilling up to 40 percent of the Columbia and Snake rivers over the dams to help young fish moving downstream. In combination with good ocean conditions, the plan is working — record salmon returns have been recorded for some species this decade and population trends are up overall.

New lawsuits

But this isn't enough for the litigants. In fact, they have expanded their efforts, filing three more lawsuits this year:

- One lawsuit would halt maintenance dredging at the Snake River dams, which is critical to keeping river commerce flowing. Plaintiffs maintain dredging would adversely affect lamprey species, but there's no evidence that lamprey are even present in the area.
- Another lawsuit filed by the Audubon Society seeks to stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from putting into action a plan, included in the BiOp, to reduce cormorant predation on salmon. They argue the Corps should spill more water at the dams to help salmon,



instead of culling the birds that are eating 20 million or more young salmon a year.

- The third challenge, filed at the Ninth Circuit, takes issue with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This lawsuit maintains that the Council should have developed its own prescriptive operations for the federal hydro system, instead of adopting the operations contained in the BiOp.

RiverPartners is involved in all of these lawsuits as a critical defender of the Northwest's incredible hydro system. We remind the players, the public, and the media that Northwest families and businesses already spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year through their electric bills to help salmon. We fight to protect these investments and the actions that truly protect salmon and wildlife.

Despite the billions spent so far to make dams more fish friendly and restore native habitat, hydro opponents simply won't stop. Their ultimate goal — unrealistic and short-sighted given climate change concerns, when we need all the carbon-free hydropower we can get — is to return rivers to a free-flowing state that existed before widespread human and economic development.

"Just propaganda"

Outside the courtroom, the anti-hydro attacks continue. Fish advocates continue to hype "DamNation," a one-sided and error-ridden film underwritten by Patagonia that calls for removal of the Snake River dams. Even Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard has described the film as "just propaganda" (*Los Angeles Times*, May 1, 2014). It is rife with misinformation — for example suggesting that the

Continued on page 24

dams lack salmon passage — but nevertheless has attracted widespread media attention. Most recently, National Geographic showcased the movie on its Facebook feed.

In addition, fish groups made news when they presented President Obama's young daughters with adoption certificates for wild orcas in Puget Sound. These groups claim orcas are declining because the Snake River dams are preventing them from having enough Chinook salmon to eat; a ridiculous proposition, given recent record Chinook salmon returns.

And newspapers and popular blogs in the Northwest and other parts of the nation routinely publish anti-dam articles without checking the facts or providing equal space for opposing viewpoints.

Majority of Northwest supports hydro

These attacks — from a small but loud anti-dam contingent — are particularly frustrating because they are so out of step with the majority of Northwest residents. According to independent polling in February 2015 by DHM Research, a clear majority of residents continue to express strong support for dams and hydropower:

- Over 76 percent of Northwest residents recognize hydro as a renewable resource.
- Support for the Snake River dams is strong and growing: 70 percent of residents believe the dams should stay.
- And 77 percent think it is critical for dams and salmon to co-exist. Unlike the small, shrill, and litigious groups who claim to represent the public's views, the public believes in balance.

With the support of our partners and trade allies, including NWPPA, RiverPartners is helping to increase public appreciation of hydro. Our CleanHydro education effort, which has reached seven million people across the Northwest through print and TV advertising three years running, celebrates the multiple benefits of irrigation, flood control, river commerce, a robust port system, and, of course, hydropower.

These are important messages for the many people who moved to the Northwest from other places, as well as for younger generations who either haven't been educated about hydropower or are being intentionally misled, and who don't always know how hydro benefits our environment and our economy. In 2016, while CleanHydro will take a hiatus from TV ads, it will continue across multiple other media platforms: digital, print, and cable.

As the endless lawsuits and unfair attacks on hydro demonstrate, we must stay vigilant. Now more than ever, we must champion and defend the hydro system, sharing our story about its irreplaceable benefits to the Northwest.

NWPPA

Terry Flores is the executive director of Northwest RiverPartners (nwrp.org), an alliance of river users that rely on the economic and environmental benefits of the Columbia and Snake rivers. Flores can be contacted at tflores@nwriverpartners.org.

WECC update on NERC registration changes

Recent changes to North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) registration criteria may be relevant to Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) members. The changes were made to ensure registered entities are subject to the right set of Reliability Standards using a consistent approach to risk assessment and registration. As part of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's (WECC) commitment to this goal, we encourage all Registered Entities that believe they may be impacted by these changes to request a registration evaluation by submitting a registration request form on www.WECC.BIZ.

The changes approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 19, 2015, are as follows:

- Purchasing-Selling Entity (PSE) and Interchange Authorities (IA) functions were eliminated.
- The threshold for registration as a Distribution Provider (DP) was raised from 25 megawatts to 75 megawatts of peak load that is directly connected to the Bulk Electric System (BES).
- Distribution Providers with Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) Protection equipment and less than 75 megawatts peak load may be eligible for registration as UFLS-Only Distribution Providers.

Registered Entities that may be impacted by these changes may request a re-evaluation of its registration by completing and submitting a Registration Request Form to WECC. The Registration Request Form is found at www.wecc.biz. To access the form you must log in with your WECC.biz account or create a new account by clicking the Login button and then the Request a Login link.

Requests to be considered as a UFLS-Only DP should simply choose the Add radio button found next to the Distribution Provider (DP) entry on the Registration Request Form. Then, in the General Comments area of the form, enter a comment indicating you are requesting registration as a UFLS-Only DP.

Please contact Michael Dalebout at (801) 819-7632 with any questions regarding the registration process. NWPPA

by Alice Clamp

Nuclear energy in the Northwest: today and tomorrow



*Energy Northwest's nuclear power plant, the Columbia Generating Station.
Right: Energy Northwest's senior leadership: (L-R) Jim Gaston, Brad Sawatzke,
Brent Ridge, Mark Reddemann, Grover Hettel, Bob Dutton, and Alex Javorik.
All photos provided by Energy Northwest.*

Columbia Generating Station — a 1,170-megawatt nuclear power plant located near Richland, Wash. — has been attracting attention lately for its record-breaking performance.

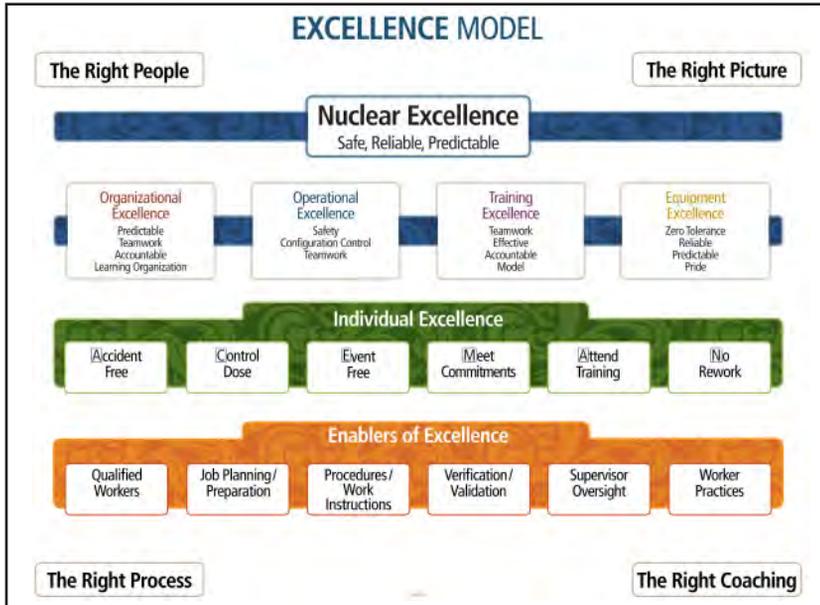
Owned and operated by Energy Northwest, a joint action agency with 27 publicly owned member utilities, Columbia is boosting power production while reducing costs. Among its achievements:

- **Output:** Produced more electricity — nearly 9.8 million megawatt-hours — in fiscal year 2014 than any previous year in its 30-year history.
- **Operation:** Set a new record in 2015 for longest continuous operational run: 683 days.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** The cost of Columbia's operations, maintenance, and fuel has decreased 4.4 percent annually over the last eight years.
- **Safety:** The plant has operated for more than 1,000 days with no employee or contractor lost-time accidents.

But just a few years ago, Columbia was attracting attention for another reason. In 2009, it had a series of scrams (unplanned plant shutdowns) that landed the plant on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's radar screen. That meant Columbia required heightened monitoring by the independent regulatory agency.

What led to the turnaround from poor performer to top performer? The answer: 1,100 employees focused on a dedicated performance improvement plan. Of course, organizations need leaders, and a virtual wholesale change in senior leadership is arguably where the transformation started. When Mark Reddemann joined Energy Northwest as CEO in 2010, he set a goal of performance excellence. To help realize that goal, he brought in Brad Sawatzke, now the agency's chief operating officer and chief nuclear officer. In turn, Sawatzke created a core management team led by Grover Hettel, vice president for operations, and Alex Javorik, vice president for engineering. Brent Ridge was

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CEO Mark Reddemann credits Energy Northwest staff embracing the above Performance Model for the agency's record generation years and recent successes.

pulled from the mid-management ranks to serve as chief financial and risk officer and soon after received added duty as vice president for corporate services. Rounding out the new team was Bob Dutton, a seasoned industry attorney, coaxed from AREVA to serve as the agency's general counsel and chief ethics officer.

But a nuclear plant is a complex machine that cannot be run from the top down. "It's our people who are the key to Columbia's success today," said Reddemann. "We presented a proven industry method for changing work behaviors and achieving results. The EN team did the rest."

That method has been phased in over the past four years, creating the building blocks that have resulted in higher performance.

"It's important to recognize that not everything can be fixed immediately," Sawatzke explained. "So we prioritized what we would go after based on identified gaps to excellence."

The phased approach allowed Columbia to become a top industry performer in equipment reliability, an early focus area, which helped with predictability.

That early focus paid off with a record generation year in 2012, again in 2013, and again in 2014, exemplifying the strengthening performance of the nuclear industry as a whole. Reddemann said those records were only made possible by employees embracing a performance improvement program known as the Excellence Model.

Individual behaviors developed through this model helped teams led by Hettel and Javorik return the nuclear plant to 100-percent power recently following a challenging restart after the plant's spring refueling outage.

Plant leaders understand that power equals value. As part of its drive toward performance excellence, Energy

Northwest is focused on providing greater value to ratepayers. All the electricity generated by Columbia is sold at cost to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a federal agency that markets electricity from 31 federal hydropower projects in the Columbia River Basin. Higher output from Columbia, said Reddemann, plays a significant role in reducing costs.

Columbia's benefit to the region

In 2012, BPA and Energy Northwest examined the value of the Columbia Generating Station to the Pacific Northwest region. They found that the plant would save energy consumers more than \$2.5 billion if it continued to operate, compared with its short-term or permanent closure and replacement by a natural gas combined cycle plant. The study timeframe covers 2012 through the expiration of Columbia's operating license in 2043.

To validate the findings, Energy Northwest commissioned a study by IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates (IHS CERA). The consulting firm concluded that Columbia Generating Station

was the best value for ratepayers when compared with all practical alternatives.

IHS CERA pointed to other benefits, too. Columbia's capacity was sufficient to meet demand, and its capacity reserve ensured reliability. The plant also is an emission-free source of electricity and adds "important diversity" to the Northwest's generating portfolio.

When the Public Power Council, which represents the interests of publicly owned utilities in the Northwest, reviewed the IHS CERA study, it concluded that Columbia's continued operation "is economically advisable for the region."

Ridge estimates that EN's cost-cutting efforts will save ratepayers approximately \$125 million during the fiscal 2016 rate period. Contributing to these savings is a low-cost, below-market nuclear fuel purchase, which will provide fuel for Columbia through 2028.

An additional factor benefiting ratepayers is the regional cooperation debt initiative with BPA (see page 29 for details). This debt refinancing arrangement, together with Columbia's declining power costs, will result in more than \$1.3 billion in BPA rate case savings between 2012 and 2021, according to Ridge.

Asked about nuclear energy's role, Scott Corwin, PPC's executive director, said that it accounts for nearly 4 percent of the region's firm energy resources and roughly 13 percent of BPA's firm resources. Columbia is also the third-largest generator in Washington, behind Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams; 92 Northwest utilities receive a percentage of its power.

"We're fortunate to have large hydro resources as well as nuclear," said Corwin. "Because more variable resources, such as wind and solar, are being added to the mix, it's

important to have baseload plants that can run day and night, regardless of the weather.”

The Columbia plant produces enough electricity to power a city the size of Seattle, said Corwin. “It’s a critical piece of the regional resource pie now and into the future,” he added.

Maintaining power portfolio diversification is important for resiliency and affordability, especially in the baseload category, said Jackie Flowers, manager of Idaho Falls Power, a BPA customer and member of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS). And, she added, it’s important for those baseload resources to be non-emitting; that’s a role nuclear energy can fill.

“Many publicly owned utilities, including our co-op, benefit from Columbia’s power,” said Ed Dowdy, a member of the Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative board. Coos-Curry receives Columbia’s electricity through its membership in the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative, a generation and transmission co-op.

Corwin agrees: “Nuclear is meeting baseload power needs for public utilities and cooperatives, and doing so in a reliable and emission-free way.”

Nuclear’s value nationwide

The Columbia Generating Station is one of 99 nuclear units operating around the country. With an installed capacity of 99,125 megawatts, they provide nearly 20 percent of the nation’s electrical energy through base load operation.

These plants are important to the U.S. economy, contributing \$60 billion annually to gross domestic product, according to a recent study by The Brattle Group, an economic consulting firm. And the U.S. nuclear fleet prevents the emission of 573 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, the study found.

“The economic and environmental benefits of nuclear energy are often undervalued in national and state energy policy discussion,” said Mark Berkman, co-author of the report.

As the cost of building new large-scale plants rises, however, utilities — especially publicly owned utilities — are looking for less expensive baseload, carbon-free generating options.

One such option is the small modular reactor (SMR). These reactors, which are typically less than 300 megawatts

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Graphic representation of what the NuScale SMR building cross section will look like.

in capacity, can be built in sequence to meet demand. They rely on natural forces like gravity and convection to ensure adequate cooling without the need for electrical power. Most of the reactor components can be manufactured in a factory and assembled on site.

SMRs: wave of the future?

A few years ago, the Western Governors Association began exploring what its 19 member states could do to create an attractive environment for nuclear energy, specifically for SMRs.

The work of the WGA served as the foundation for the Western Initiative for Nuclear (WIN), created by NuScale Power in 2013 to advance SMR technology in the West. Energy Northwest is a participant in WIN.

“We’re following SMR technology. And given our 30 years of nuclear experience with Columbia, it’s a good fit,” said Jim Gaston, general manager of Energy Services & Development at Energy Northwest.

“It makes sense for us to be the operator of the first SMR,” said Reddemann. “We currently don’t have sufficient demand in Washington, but when that day comes to increase carbon-free generation, we’ll be ready with the culture and experience to meet the need.”

In 2014, the state of Washington awarded a grant to the Tri-City Development Council to study the Hanford Site, which surrounds Columbia, as a possible location for an SMR. The study concluded that siting an SMR at Hanford was technically feasible and could benefit from the existing infrastructure and local nuclear workforce.

“We would be interested in discussing the location of an SMR at that site,” said Gaston.

Earlier this year, Washington state adopted a budget that includes funding for a study to identify possible locations in the state for SMRs, as well as recommendations on how the siting and permitting process for SMRs could be streamlined.

The first SMR?

The country’s first SMR could very well be built in the West. UAMPS, another joint action agency, began looking at the technology as a carbon-emission regulation hedge for its 45 member utilities, said Doug Hunter, CEO and general manager.

The agency also needs to address its fuel mix, he said. Coal accounts for roughly 40 percent of UAMPS’ generation sold to its members. If power sales to California are included, the coal percentage is closer to 60 percent. Hunter said that the expiration of operating agreements with coal plant operators in 2022, the investment required to deal with regional haze issues, and proposed EPA emission regulations spell the retirement of coal-fired generation.

“We saw SMRs as one part of our Carbon-Free Power Project,” said Hunter. The other two parts are distributed generation and energy efficiency.

So UAMPS began exploring small modular reactors. “We liked the passive safety features, the small size, and the scalability,” said Hunter. After studying various SMR designs, the agency decided that the design being developed by NuScale Power would best fit its needs. “We talked with Energy Northwest about the project. Then, we reached out to NuScale,” explained Hunter.

In 2013, UAMPS announced a plan to build a NuScale SMR facility in Idaho, potentially on the site of the Department of Energy’s Idaho National Laboratory. The 600-megawatt plant (comprised of 12 50-megawatt power modules) would be owned by UAMPS and operated by Energy Northwest.

“Nuclear culture doesn’t change with platforms,” said Ridge. “We’re already proven experts in nuclear safety and environmental stewardship. Now we’re talking about an advanced, low-cost source of incremental electricity and I think public power needs to lead the way.”

NuScale plans to submit a design certification application to the NRC in late 2016, and UAMPS intends to submit an application for a combined construction and operating license in late 2017 or early 2018.

If all goes according to plan, the SMR could be on line in June 2024, said Hunter. One of the aims of the SMR project, he said, is to talk with other utilities about UAMPS’ experience. “I see a lot of promise for joint action with public power utilities,” he said.

UAMPS already has support from its own members, said Hunter. That includes Idaho Falls Power.

“We are an interested party, looking at this resource,” said Flowers. “Being first has its challenges. But because of widespread interest in the project, we hope to see participation that will limit utilities’ risk exposure.”

Idaho Falls Power currently gets electricity from BPA, but Flowers says it is pushing the limit of that allocation. “So we’re looking at the UAMPS project as a possible next

addition to our portfolio,” she said. “As there’s more certainty on costs, we’ll work hard to analyze this resource.” Pricing, she added, will be crucial.

Flowers says the United States has the gold standard for nuclear safety and regulatory requirements, so “we want to move forward with SMRs on that basis.”

Hunter believes the UAMPS project is the best way to ensure stable, reliable, and well-priced power to member utilities for decades to come.

“Public power needs the benefits of nuclear,” said Mike McGough, chief commercial officer at NuScale Power. The scalability and lower cost of these reactors caters to public power participation, he added.

But it’s still the early days for SMRs, noted PPC’s Corwin. First, the pilot project has to get off the ground, and then utilities need to tap the operational experience. “As with any new technology, it’s important to bridge the cost gap,” he said. “In the Northwest, people will be looking at SMR development.”

Until an SMR proves itself, Columbia Generating Station will likely remain the Northwest’s only baseline comparison for nuclear power. At some point, however, the region will need more baseload generation. If Columbia’s reliability and cost of power are an indication of SMR potential, then nuclear will certainly be a major contributor to tomorrow’s diverse, carbon-free energy mix. **NWPPA**

Alice Clamp has written articles on renewable energy, nuclear energy, grid reliability, emerging energy technologies, and many other energy-related topics for more than two decades. For more information about the Columbia Generating Station, please contact Energy Northwest’s John Dobken at (509) 377-8369.

Regional cooperation debt translates into savings

In partnership with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Energy Northwest has agreed to continue to refinance its nuclear debt. Under this regional cooperation debt plan, approved by Energy Northwest’s executive board, the debt for Energy Northwest’s Columbia Generating Station and two unbuilt nuclear power plants will be extended by 19 years.

The revenue from these lower debt service costs will be used to prepay BPA’s higher interest rate debt to the U.S. Treasury, essentially trading a more expensive regional debt burden for Energy Northwest’s less expensive debt. It should be noted that Columbia’s original debt would have been paid off in 2012 had these opportunities to benefit the region, which began in 2001, not materialized.

The most recent arrangement is expected to result in interest-rate savings of \$2 billion, while restoring BPA’s Treasury borrowing authority by up to \$1.9 billion.

“Energy Northwest is taking action with a broad view of its regional responsibilities and is willing, for the good of the region, to carry the regional cooperation debt on its books for a longer period than previously scheduled,” said Brent Ridge, vice president for corporate services and the agency’s chief financial and risk officer.

The partnership with Bonneville provides “remarkable debt management opportunities to lower the cost of power for the benefit of the region,” said Ridge. **NWPPA**

NORTH AMERICAN SUBSTATION SERVICES



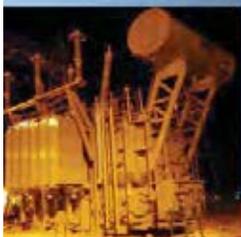
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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Job Opportunities is a service provided to NWPPA member systems and associate members. Member price is \$110 per listing for a 30-day period.

- Job Opportunities ads are also accepted from non-members. Ads are \$330 per listing for a 30-day period.
- *Copy must be received before the 25th of the month prior to the month of publication* (for example, February 25 for March issue).
- The *Bulletin* is mailed by the 15th of each month.
- Complete the online Job Opportunities ad placement form at www.nwppa.org.
- NWPPA reserves the right to edit all listings in order to fit size requirements in the publication.

POSITION: HR Manager

COMPANY: Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Hermiston, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 16, 2015.

TO APPLY: Application may be obtained in person at 750 W. Elm Ave., Hermiston, Ore., online at www.umatillaelectric.com, by email at hr@umatillaelectric.com, or by calling (541) 289-0380.

POSITION: Apprentice Lineman

COMPANY: Glacier Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cut Bank, Mont.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 17, 2015.

TO APPLY: Direct inquiries to General Manager Matt Hudson. Submit completed application, resumé, and three professional references. Applications are available at www.glacierelectric.com.

POSITION: Controller

COMPANY: Parkland Light & Water Company (Tacoma, Wash.)

SALARY: Competitive.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply by submitting a resumé with salary expectations, cover letter, and a minimum of three professional references or letters of recommendation to Parkland Light & Water Company, Attn. Susan Cutrell, P.O. Box 44426, Tacoma, WA 98448, or email to cutrell@plw.coop. Please mark subject line as Open Controller Position.

POSITION: Electric Utility Engineer

COMPANY: City of Redding (Redding, Calif.)

SALARY: \$6,094-\$9,683 per month.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2015.

TO APPLY: For complete job description and to apply online, go to www.ci.redding.ca.us.

POSITION: Director of Energy and Member Services

COMPANY: Flathead Electric Cooperative (Kalispell, Mont.)

SALARY: \$96,394 to \$145,832 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2015.

TO APPLY: Applications are available by calling Scott Mitton at (406) 751-4408 or by emailing s.mitton@flathead.coop. Completed applications may be submitted to the Human Resources office, Flathead Electric Cooperative, 2510 U.S. Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

POSITION: Transmission Grid Planning Engineer

COMPANY: ColumbiaGrid (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: TBD (up to \$125,000 annually, DOQ).

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 19, 2015.

TO APPLY: For more details and to apply, go to www.columbiagrid.org.

POSITION: General Counsel

COMPANY: Cowlitz PUD (Longview, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 21, 2015.

TO APPLY: Please submit resumé to Cowlitz PUD, Attn. HR, P.O. Box 3007, Longview, WA 98632, or scan and email to jobs@cowlitzpud.org.

POSITION: Purchasing Agent

COMPANY: Central Lincoln People's Utility District (Newport, Ore.)

SALARY: \$58,913.28-\$82,897.92 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 21, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at <http://clpud.org/employment/>.

POSITION: Station Wire Technician

COMPANY: Eugene Water & Electric Board (Eugene, Ore.)

SALARY: \$45.28 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 22, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/eweb/default.cfm>.

POSITION: Technical Training Manager

COMPANY: Novinium (Kent, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 26, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at <https://hire.jobvite.com/j?cj=o14g1fwN&cs=nwppa>.

POSITION: Owners Representative

COMPANY: Harvest Wind Project (Gig Harbor, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 28, 2015.

TO APPLY: Submit resumé and/or proposal to sharon@penlight.org.

POSITION: Network and Communications System Supervisor

COMPANY: City of Tacoma (Tacoma, Wash.)

SALARY: \$92,060.80-\$118,040.00 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 28, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/human_resources/employment_information.

POSITION: Journeyman Meterman

COMPANY: Klickitat PUD (Goldendale, Wash.)

SALARY: \$41.74 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 29, 2015.

TO APPLY: Applications are available at www.klickitapud.com and at the Goldendale Klickitat PUD office. Submit written application to Klickitat PUD, c/o Human Resources, 1313 S. Columbus, Goldendale, WA 98620, or by faxing to (509) 773-7449.

POSITION: Chief Power Dispatcher

COMPANY: Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)

SALARY: \$75,004-\$95,576 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 30, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.muni.org/jol.

POSITION: Generation Division Manager

COMPANY: Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)

SALARY: \$66,794-\$117,956 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 30, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.muni.org/jol.

POSITION: Relay Substation Technician

COMPANY: Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)

SALARY: \$100,380 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 30, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.muni.org/jol.

POSITION: Customer Engineering Supervisor

COMPANY: Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)

SALARY: \$75,004-\$95,576 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 30, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.muni.org/jol.

POSITION: Line Design Engineering Supervisor

COMPANY: Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)

SALARY: \$75,004-\$95,576 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 30, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.muni.org/jol.

Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative Inc., has 28 employees providing electric, telephone, cable TV and internet service to the Dillingham service area. It has 95 miles of distribution lines, a power plant, fuel tank farm, satellite system, microwave and central office communication equipment.

NETC is an equal opportunity employer and offers a salary commensurate with qualifications and representative of the market along with a comprehensive benefits package. The successful candidate must have a proven track record of leadership, be of high integrity and have excellent listening, communication and interpersonal skills. The CEO/GM will report directly to the Board of Directors. As CEO/GM, the successful candidate must demonstrate a high-level of professionalism and represent the Cooperative to the co-op member/owners, communities, legislators, affiliated organizations and other various stakeholders. The position requires strong business acumen, negotiation skills, innovative thinking, a compelling vision and the ability to grasp and communicate complex issues relevant to the electric and telecommunication utility industries.

A minimum of 10 years of progressive senior management experience with strong team building skills is preferred. Electric and/or telephone cooperative experience is a plus and the understanding of member-owned cooperative principles is desired. Candidates must have experience with and a high level of understanding of all the core business functions of an electric generation and distribution plant and telecommunications utility industry: strategic planning, Board relations, finance, engineering, technology, operations, power supply, marketing, member services, safety, and grassroots initiatives. The successful candidate must have an understanding of the political/legislative, regulatory and environmental issues that impact the electric and telecommunication industries. Demonstrated continual educational growth is expected.

The application packet consisting of the position description, application form, and consent to background checks may be obtained from Tina Torrey via e-mail at tina@khe.com. Completed applications must be received no later than August 31, 2015. Interviews with potential candidates will be scheduled for September 2015.

Please direct any and all questions regarding this announcement to Andy Leman, General Counsel for Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc., at jal@khe.com.

Construction and Maintenance Superintendent

Clark Public Utilities is a customer-owned electric and water utility located in Vancouver, Washington. The Utility is committed to providing exceptional customer service, reliability, and efficiency. We are recruiting to fill a Construction and Maintenance Superintendent position with this same commitment to excellence.

Responsibilities include the supervision of utility line crews, contracted line crews and subcontractors. The coordinating of schedules with customers, planners, and engineers. The review of facilitation of capital construction projects and the design of system maintenance jobs and emergency operations. This position requires experience in the facilitation of safety and training.

This position requires an Associate's degree (A.A.) or equivalent from a two year college or technical school. A minimum of 10 years transmission and distribution experience, including T&D management experience, is preferred. Candidates must have technical and practical knowledge of the installation and maintenance of electrical transmission and distribution systems, both overhead and underground. Candidates must have experience in planning project design, specifications and scheduling, and demonstrated human relations, supervisory skills, and experience in management of job coordination.

To learn more about the duties and qualifications of this position, go to our website at www.clarkpublicutilities.com. Click About Us then Job Opportunities.

Clark Public Utilities offers excellent benefits, an attractive wage, and company incentive programs. Resumes may be submitted to jobs@clarkpub.com or to Clark Public Utilities, Human Resources, P.O. Box 8900, Vancouver, WA 98668. Recruitment efforts will continue until the position is filled.



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POSITION: GIS Specialist

COMPANY: Kittitas PUD (Ellensburg, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 31, 2015.

TO APPLY: Submit application and resumé online at www.kittitaspud.com; mail to Kittitas PUD, 1400 Vantage Hwy, Ellensburg, WA 98926; or email to kelly.carlson@kittitaspud.com.

POSITION: Campus Director

COMPANY: Northwest Lineman College (Oroville, Calif.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 31, 2015.

TO APPLY: Send resumé and cover letter to Ms. Terrie Melanson at tmelanson@lineman.edu. Reference CA Campus Director in the subject line of your email.

POSITION: Power Engineer

COMPANY: City of Roseville (Roseville, Calif.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 1, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.roseville.ca.us/jobs.

POSITION: Chief Executive Officer

COMPANY: Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU) (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: TBD.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 16, 2015.

TO APPLY: Application form can be found at <http://nru-nw.com/career.htm>.

POSITION: Director of Public Works

COMPANY: City of Sumas (Sumas, Wash.)

SALARY: \$65,000-\$82,000 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.

TO APPLY: For qualifications and application materials, go to

www.cityofsumas.com. First consideration given to applications received by August 6, 2015.

POSITION: Office Supervisor/HR Director

COMPANY: Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Eureka, Mont.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.

TO APPLY: Complete and submit a Lincoln Electric application, found at www.lincolnelectric.coop, along with a professional resumé to Ray Ellis, General Manager, Lincoln Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 628, Eureka, MT 59917, or rellis@lincolnelectric.coop.

POSITION: Electric Systems Managing Engineer

COMPANY: City of Ketchikan (Ketchikan, Alaska)

SALARY: \$90,000-\$104,028 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.

TO APPLY: Recruitment brochure available at www.ralphandersen.com.

Apply via email to apply@ralphandersen.com. **NWPPA**

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