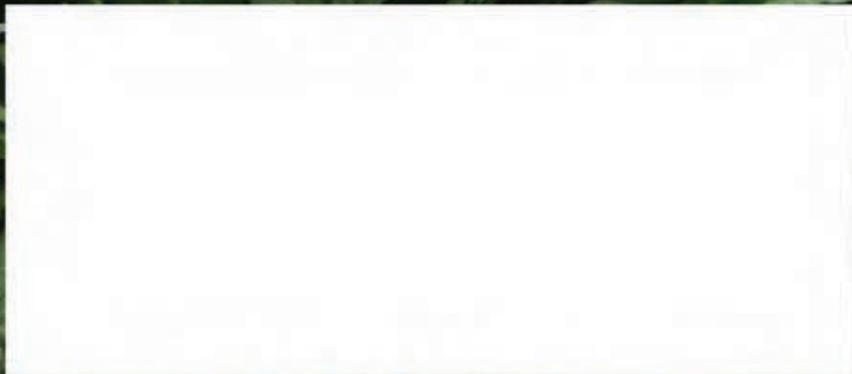
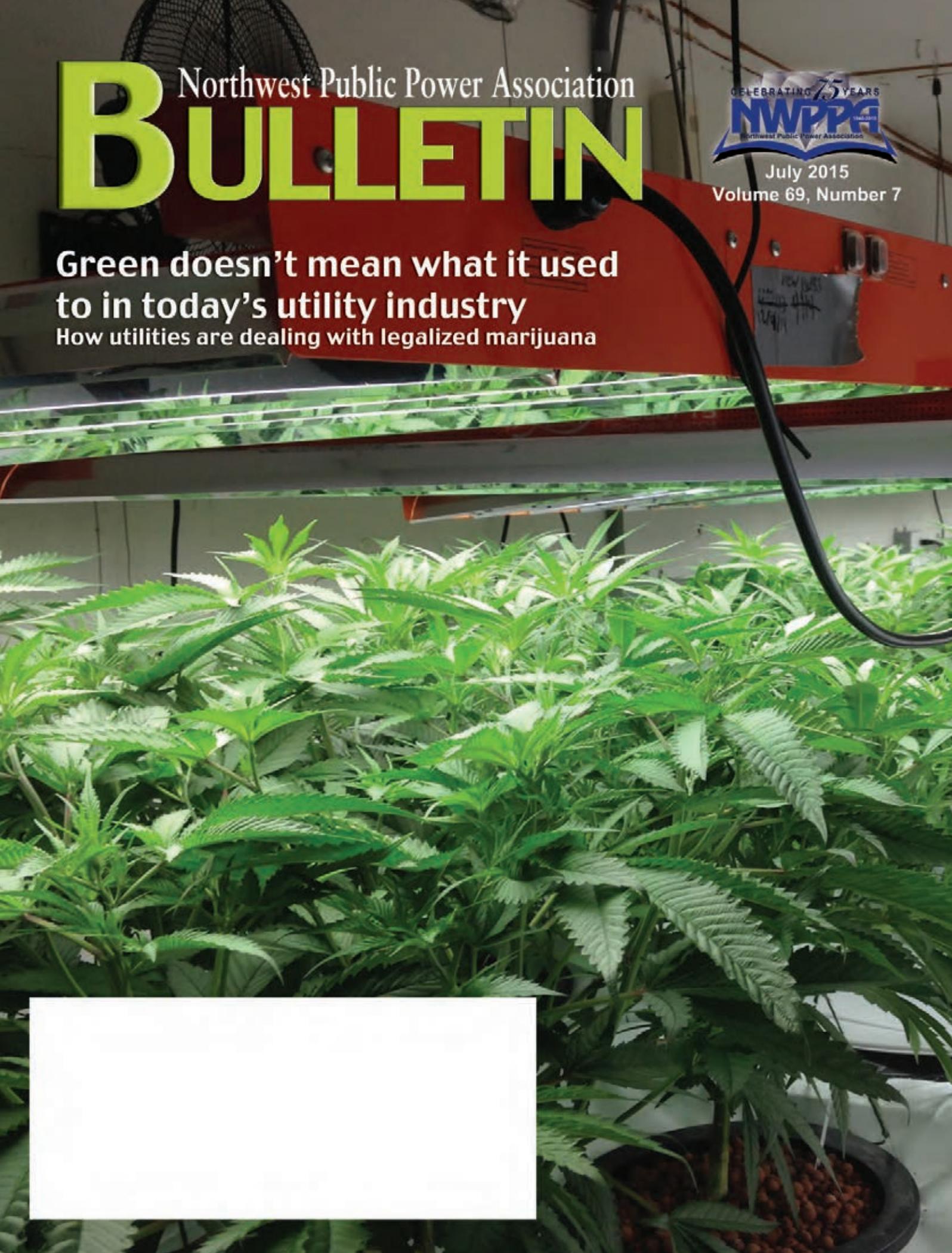


# Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**



July 2015  
Volume 69, Number 7

**Green doesn't mean what it used  
to in today's utility industry**  
How utilities are dealing with legalized marijuana





**On the cover:** Due to the changing recreational marijuana laws in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, utilities are facing a new set of concerns and opportunities. On the cover is a medical marijuana operation in Southern Oregon, in which the owner is planning to move his operations to Eugene once the recreational law in Oregon takes effect. Photo provided by EWEB.

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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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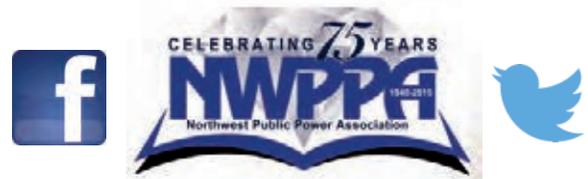
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*Celebrating our past with an eye on the future*



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# Bond ... James Bond? No. NIC ... 2015 NIC!

Playing on NWPPA's 75th diamond anniversary, this year's Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) Planning Committee members chose a James Bond theme — "Diamonds Are Forever — Bonding at the Lake" — and they are having some fun with it! If you are a communications, marketing, or energy efficiency professional, you need to plan on being in Lake Tahoe during September 13-16 for the NIC.



The Sunday night welcome reception will take place as always, but this year attendees can stick around for popcorn, cotton candy, and a viewing of a classic James Bond movie, chosen by our esteemed conference chairman, Joel Myer from Mason County PUD No. 3.

Tuesday night's banquet will be a black-tie, *Casino Royale* affair (don't worry, gents, we will provide the bowties if you forget yours), complete with a reception, dinner, presentation of the annual awards (including a new energy efficiency award named after the late Jim Brands), and some gaming fun.

And of course, there will be lots of educational opportunities *For Your Eyes Only* throughout the two and a half days of sessions. Some of the speakers already booked for the conference include Jake Greene, author of "Whoa, My Boss Is Naked" and co-creator of the "Millennial Parents" Web series; Mark Gosvener, Efficiency Services Group; John Hargrove, Association of Energy Services Professionals; Jennifer Eskel, BPA; John Morris, CLEAResult; Richard Lorenz, Cable Huston; Charlie Black, CJB Energy Economics; Dick Wanderscheid, Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF); and Megan McCoy Noe, Ruralite.

The NIC is no place for a *Quantum of Solace*, so be sure to join your industry colleagues at the breakout sessions. Some of the scheduled communication and energy efficiency sessions include "Communicating Rates;" "Writing for the Web and Social Media;" "AMI and Its Benefits;" "Everything about Marijuana;" "AMI 2.0 — Distributed Generation;" "Community Solar;" and "Scams."

And of course, because *The World Is Not Enough*, two roundtable sessions (one on Monday and another on Tuesday) have been scheduled. These are where attendees can bounce ideas off one another and come away with tips and tricks to take back and possibly even implement at their own utilities.

*You Only Live Twice*, so stay Wednesday afternoon and learn tips and tricks for navigating social media in the utility industry. The post-conference workshop, *Social*

*Media Bootcamp*, will look at ways to enhance your social media presence with your members. Many utilities have signed up for Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram, but now what do you do with it? Come to this optional workshop to have that question answered for you!

Book your room at Harveys Lake Tahoe in Nevada as soon as possible, but no later than August 12, 2015, to secure the NWPPA discounted rate of only \$99 per night. To book your room, call (800) 455-4770. For anyone flying in to the Reno airport, a shuttle to Harveys can be booked by visiting [www.southtahoexpress.com](http://www.southtahoexpress.com).

To register for the conference or get updated information about the schedule, visit [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org). If you have any questions about this year's NIC, please direct your questions to Arnie Winkler at (360) 816-1445 or [arnie@nwppa.org](mailto:arnie@nwppa.org). **NWPPA**

## City of Healdsburg joins NWPPA

NWPPA would like to welcome the City of Healdsburg (Calif.) to the association as our newest utility member.

The City of Healdsburg Electric Department is responsible for power procurement for the city; compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements; and providing conservation programs to its customers. It oversees the city's share of generation projects, the Federal Western Central Valley Project allocation through the Western Area Power Administration, and the city's share of the California/Oregon transmission project, as well as various long- and short-term power contracts both for existing future power needs. The department is also responsible for the operation and maintenance associated with the reliable distribution of electricity to the city.

The Electric Department serves 5,793 meters, and maintains 1,220 power poles, over 800 transformers, and 1,320 streetlights. Utilities Director Terry Crowley leads the 12 employees that make up the City of Healdsburg Electric Department.

For more information, visit [www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/228/Electric](http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/228/Electric). **NWPPA**

## NWPPA Power Supply Workshop is coming to Vancouver, August 3-4

Our utility industry is changing and nowhere is this more apparent than in the management of power resources. In fact, some power resource planners have questioned whether or not the traditional 30-year resource planning model should be much shorter given supply option changes due to distributed generation, renewable energy, regulatory changes, and customer attitudes and demands towards the power they use. These factors make managing and planning for power resources and costs more challenging given the prospect that your utility's retail rates could exceed the cost of other providers in the future.

On August 3-4, NWPPA will hold its Power Supply Workshop at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Vancouver, Wash. This year's workshop has been designed by electric utility power supply professionals to update you on the current issues and topics — such as the ones above — that are important to the West.

Those that should attend include power supply professionals; general managers and CEOs; policy makers; finance and rate department managers; and government and public affairs professionals. For a detailed agenda, please go to [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org) or contact Scott Lowry at [slowry@nwppa.org](mailto:slowry@nwppa.org). NWPPA



## NWPPA welcomes first high school intern, Teah Wing

NWPPA has accepted an internship lasting the duration of the summer, from June 22 through August. This internship is through the E.D.G.E. program at Heritage High School. E.D.G.E., or Extended Development for Graduation and Employment program, focuses on worksite learning opportunities for students. This was offered exclusively for the girls participating in the B.O.W.s (Business Opportunities for Women) program at Heritage High School. The specifics of the internship include a required 90 hours to earn .25 high school credits. The internship is unpaid, but offers important resumé-building experience, on-the-job training, and an opportunity to develop professional contacts.

The internship opportunity was first mentioned by NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker at a B.O.W.s meeting in June. She stated that the hours and days would be flexible according to the hour requirement specific to the E.D.G.E. program, as well as to the student's schedule. Decker explained, "The internship is a good opportunity to expose young people to public power, and the importance of the industry to the economy."

NWPPA chose Teah Wing out of three applicants. She will be a senior at Heritage High School participating in the Running Start program at Clark Community College. Running Start is a program offered to ambitious students at Heritage High School who want to get a jump on furthering their education after high school. As an intern at NWPPA, she will assist the communications department with the annual directory, the annual communications contest, as well as other tasks and projects as they are assigned.

Wing said, "I take the helpful opportunities that I can to better my education and experience in the work world and a professional environment. Working as an intern at NWPPA is an excellent opportunity for me to gain knowledge in the world of business."

Wing is the first intern from this program to be accepted by NWPPA. If the internship proves to be beneficial to the Association and student, NWPPA will continue to provide the opportunity to future interns through the E.D.G.E. program.

NWPPA

# NWPPA teams up with NRECA for training

**O**n May 21, 2015, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and NWPPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a step towards expanding director training opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. Because a significant number of electric distribution cooperatives and PUDs in the Pacific Northwest are current or potential members of both associations, NWPPA and NRECA decided to collaborate to bring more local training opportunities to their shared members.

Highlights of the MOU include:

- NWPPA will use a trainer who is already certified for use by NRECA with the acknowledgement of NRECA.
- NRECA grants to NWPPA a limited, nonexclusive license to use NRECA's copyrighted course materials, including two Credentialed Cooperative Director courses: CCD 2600 *Director Duties and Liabilities* and CCD 2620 *Board Operations and Process*.
- NRECA agrees to accept three NWPPA courses, valued at one credit each, for credit towards a member director or trustee earning NRECA's Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). The three accepted courses are NWPPA's *Electric Utility System Operations; Enterprise Risk Management for Policy Makers — A Successful Implementation*; and *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- NRECA agrees to provide NWPPA with course descriptions, instructor profiles, and other collateral for NWPPA's use in promotion of the courses.

Together, NWPPA and NRECA hope this collaboration will assist members who desire to participate in NRECA director training programs, but have not been able to do so in the past because of long distances and the expenses associated with traveling to NRECA-sponsored training events in other areas of the country. **NWPPA**

## Decker elected to Smart Grid Northwest Board

**O**n June 18, Smart Grid Northwest elected NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker to its board of directors.

In addition to Decker's election, PPC Executive Director Scott Corwin was elected to the Smart Grid Northwest Advisory Board.

Smart Grid Northwest's mission is to promote, grow, and enable the smart grid industry and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. For more information, visit [smartgridnw.org](http://smartgridnw.org). **NWPPA**

# WEI and NWPPA invite you to the 2015 Pole Conference

**J**oin WEI (Western Energy Institute) and NWPPA for two full days of informative educational sessions presented by industry experts and a trade show with all the latest innovations and products. This year's Utility Pole + Overhead Systems Conference will be held September 9-10, 2015, in Portland, Ore.

A team of your utility peers has been hard at work developing the agenda and selecting expert presenters to address the most critical and pertinent issues. Agenda highlights include:

- State of the industry keynote address by Pat Reiten, president and CEO, PacifiCorp Transmission
- *Decisions from a Utility Pole Perspective: Crew Workability, Acceptance + Reliability*
- *Developments and Advances in Wood and Steel Pole Maintenance + Performance*

- *Computer-Based Pole Loading Calculations*
- *Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) for Pole Inspection*

Registration is now open and can be completed at [www.westernenergymembers.org](http://www.westernenergymembers.org).

WEI and NWPPA members who register before August 7 will pay only \$449; this rate includes admittance to all sessions, meals, and a reception. The conference will take place at the Embassy Suites Portland Airport. Contact the hotel directly at (503) 460-3000 to make your room reservations. Identify yourself as being with the NWPPA/WEI Utility Pole Conference to receive a special rate of \$159 plus state and local taxes for a single/double. This rate is guaranteed until August 17, 2015, or until the room block is full. For questions about the conference, please contact Arnie Winkler at [arnie@nwppa.org](mailto:arnie@nwppa.org). **NWPPA**

## A piece of NWPPA history: Associate members

The first non-utility companies signed up as NWPPA associate members in February 1948; we believe the first three to do so were Maydwell & Hartzell, General Electric Co., and R.W. Beck (now Leidos and still an NWPPA associate member).

Half way through 1971, NWPPA signed up its 100<sup>th</sup> associate member. Over 40 years later, some of the companies that were with us then (such as Carlson Sales, General Pacific, Henkels & McCoy, NECA, Pacific Underwriters Corporation, and Wilson Construction) are still with us now.

Today, NWPPA has over 300 associate members from all across the U.S. and Canada. Associate members play an important part in the planning, generation, and distribution of electric energy. Services provided by our associate members run the gamut from nearly anything and everything that can be associated with the utility industry — from manufacturers to engineering firms to software companies to power management service providers.

Associate member participation, which can include serving on committees, sponsoring exhibits, and hosting special events for delegates, assists greatly in the success of our conferences, workshops, and other events. In return, associate members receive many of the same benefits that our utility members do — they receive a discounted rate on training events, all three of the Association's publications, and access to the Members Only section of our website.

To all of our associate members past, present, and future, we say, "Thank you!" **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](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org). The winner will be notified by the end of the month and receive a gift card from NWPPA.

June's diamond was on page 7 in the middle of the Call for Entries for the Excellence in Communication Competition.

Congratulations to June's winner: Wanita Gordon from Klickitat County PUD in Goldendale, Wash. **NWPPA**



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago — 1965

For the tenth time in eight years, Clatskanie PUD gave its customers one month of free electric service (Ore.) ... The City of Ellensburg's new combined shop and warehouse for light, water, gas, streets, sanitation, parks, and recreation was in service (Wash.) ... Naknek Electric Association announced that it would purchase and install a 500-kilowatt diesel generating unit and build distribution lines with a recent \$177,000 REA loan (Alaska) ... Elmhurst Mutual Company adopted whole-dollar billing (Wash.) .. Missoula Electric Cooperative cut its general service rate and adopted a new billing method (Mont.).

### 25 years ago — 1990

Tacoma City Light's steam plant No. 2 began burning refuse-derived fuel from the city landfill (Wash.) ... At its annual meeting, Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative received a unique plaque from Triangle Grange #533; the award recognized the co-op's outstanding job of providing power during the winter of 1989-1990 (Ore.) ... A family tradition dating back to 1939 ended when Buyral Madan retired as superintendent after 45 years with Orcas Power & Light Co. (OPALCO); Madan's father-in-law, Eber Bruns, served OPALCO from 1939 to 1968 (Wash.) ... Seven utility crews joined for a line-raising at Oregon's newest co-op, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative.

### 5 years ago — 2010

The Flathead Electric Cooperative linemen received the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region One Supervisor's Award for land stewardship on Plum Creek lands ... Franklin PUD completed building its new Traveling Renewable Energy Kiosk (TREK) trailer (Wash.) ... The Central Lincoln PUD Board of Directors entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy to receive \$9.9 million in grant funding for smart grid technologies (Ore.) ... After more than 30 years with Ravalli Electric Cooperative, Paul Rennaker enjoyed a retirement party in his honor (Mont.) ... Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative promoted Jami Bartunek to assistant general manager (Ore.). **NWPPA**

# August, September, and October 2015

Please go to our website to view the full descriptions for these and other courses. [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org).

### POWER SUPPLY WORKSHOP

**Who Should Attend:** Power supply professionals; general managers and CEOs; policy makers; finance and rate department managers; and government and public affairs professionals.

*For more information, see page 4.*

**AUGUST 3-4, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### 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.)

**AUGUST 3-5, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### EMPLOYER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TEAM PREPARATIONS

**Who Should Attend:** General managers, operations managers, members of the employer bargaining team, and chief negotiators. We recommend that you send more than one team member to this class.

**AUGUST 6-7, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### NEW! SAFETY CULTURE CONFERENCE: WHY, WHAT, AND HOW

**Who Should Attend:** Policy makers, CEOs, general managers, and senior management.

**AUGUST 12-13, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### 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.

**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.**

### 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

*Continued on page 8*

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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**

## **OCTOBER 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.**

## **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**

## **NEW! 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

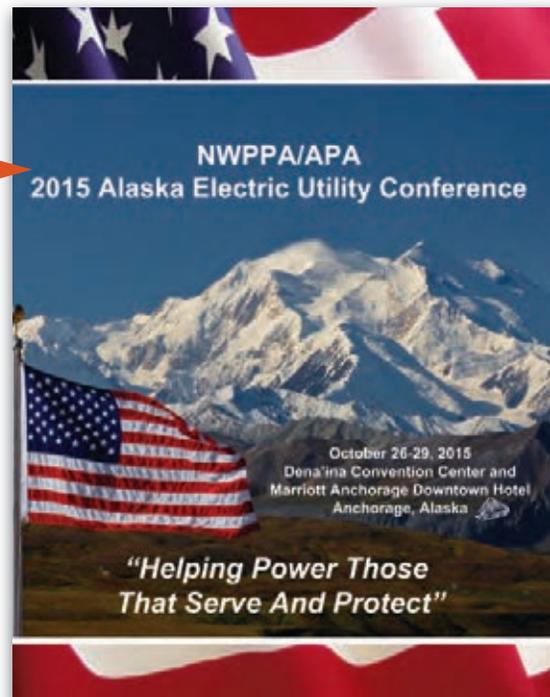
Who Should Attend: Chief financial officers, senior-level accounting staff, auditors, general managers/CEOs, policymakers, and legal counsel. (Please note that attendees are not required to take Part 1 before taking this class.)

OCTOBER 28-29, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

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# Putting a beatdown on risk: the role of the internal auditor in entity-wide risk management



Internal controls. Not only are they how an organization protects itself from the risks inherent in operating a business, but they're also a hot topic in the last 15 years with some of the major corporate failures as a result of fraud, poor corporate governance, and policies and procedures that hadn't been updated to keep pace with the ever-changing ways that we transact business. But here we are, more than a decade since significant financial scams were uncovered that lead to the downfall of some of the largest businesses in American history, and internal controls are still a consistent topic amongst boards of directors, management, and employees of organizations of all shapes and sizes.

The reason is risk. It's always there, and not just within the finance department. Not just within the customer service department or human resources or operations. The list goes on and on because risk is prevalent in every business function. Furthermore, what's alarming is that the risks are constantly morphing as the increasing use of technology to assist with initiating, approving, and recording business transactions creates new risks that current controls designed years ago — if not decades ago — are not often sufficient to mitigate such new threats. That leads us to an important question that all organizations must consider. How do we put the beatdown on risk?

The missing piece in all of this is often what's known as corrective controls, and it separates organizations with strong internal controls from those that leave themselves open to fraud, loss, and a potentially tarnished public reputation. This is where an internal auditor can provide tremendous value, beyond just the financial risks that are primarily the focus for external auditors. Corrective controls represent the continuous monitoring process that must occur to ensure the policies and procedures in place are operating effectively and that the controls are relevant in light of the current business and operational environment at the utility. An effective internal auditor can be extremely beneficial to management when the day-to-day duties of management don't allow the time for constant oversight over the effectiveness of controls that's needed to really help the utility protect itself. This is where employing an internal auditor can propel the business in achieving its strategic and operational goals while making sure it continues to accurately identify new risks in a timely fashion.

Internal audit does provide one important similarity to external auditors in that it typically reports directly to either the board of directors or senior management. This is key for a couple of reasons, the first being that the board and senior management have the power within the utility to enact change, which we all know is not always the easiest path to go down, especially when policies and procedures have been the same year after year. If the results of the internal auditor's work shows that controls are not designed, implemented, or operating effectively to mitigate the identified risks, then a proactive top-down approach of addressing the issue from those at the helm of the utility is often the most effective means to do so. The second key similarity is that internal auditors also have a professional duty to provide an unbiased and objective view. Therefore, internal auditors should not be under the direction of any particular department, as they strive to provide objective information about all of the departments and functions they evaluate.

This is, however, where the similarities end. But the differences between external auditors and internal auditors highlight how a utility can really start to benefit from the year-round, entity-wide risk management that the internal auditor can provide. Moreover, the internal auditor takes on more of a consulting function, and the sky's the limit in terms of the scope and extent of the projects on internal audit's to-do list. Whereas an external audit is limited to looking at historical, financial results, an internal audit can take on more of a prospective look. Will the organization's current control structure effectively address the risks present in a new customer service information system that goes live

next year? Who are some of the key employees retiring in the next five years and is there a succession plan to ensure a smooth transition and reduce the loss of experience, skills, and knowledge of the retiree? How does the utility plan to modify its current policies and procedures in light of new laws and regulations? All of these questions represent legitimate risks that the internal auditor can investigate ahead of time and make sure that the utility is prepared for significant changes in the future.

Although the core role of the internal auditor deals with identifying, evaluating, and reporting on risk management, it can also extend into other related activities to help with championing effective change. For example, providing advice; facilitating workshops; coaching the utility on risk and control; supporting managers as they work to identify the best way to mitigate risk; and making available to management the tools and techniques used by internal auditing to analyze risks and controls. These activities help to raise the profile and increase the effectiveness of internal auditing. Whereas external auditing's role typically is limited to pulling management and the board of directors into the loop on identified internal control risks, an internal audit can take it to the next step by assisting in the process of improving the current policies, procedures, and controls throughout the organization.

With a constantly evolving business environment, the industry's emphasis on internal controls doesn't look like it's going anywhere in the foreseeable future, and that's why it's important to stay on top of the dreaded four-letter word: risk. Unfortunately, there's no way to completely eliminate risk, but with an internal audit function, you can arm your utility with an effective weapon to fight against it. And on top of that, internal audit can provide the added benefit of helping management implement the necessary change needed to mitigate the identified risks. Keep in mind that it was in fact an internal auditor at WorldCom who was attributed with uncovering the \$3.8 billion fraud that led to its meltdown. Is it time for your organization to invest in this fundamental element of corporate governance?

NWPPA

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*Although the core role of the internal auditor deals with identifying, evaluating, and reporting on risk management, it can also extend into other related activities to help with championing effective change.*

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by Neil Neroutsos

# Managing workplace technology change, Snohomish PUD launches ONE program

Utilities throughout the country face a future marked by significant technological advances and changing customer expectations. Snohomish County PUD will see its customer base grow to one million people within the next 15 years. As the community grows and technology evolves, the utility will need to continue to adopt better tools with more flexibility, less administration, and more automation.

In 2014, the utility launched its ONE program, a multi-year effort to create a foundation for future business growth, supported by a collection of technology improvements. ONE consolidates nearly a hundred software programs in multiple silos into one integrated system. It greatly reduces infrastructure and support requirements by consolidating three enterprise-wide systems into one.

“A key benefit of the ONE program is the way it helps connect the work that employees do with other work groups,” PUD Interim CEO/General Manager Anne Spangler said. “Like many other organizations, we have a lot of places where employees store information, and many versions of the same information. Over time, each work group has developed effective and useful ways to carry out its particular processes, but we’ve lacked the type of integration that enables each group to share and build on the work of the others.”

### Employee focused

Before the utility introduced new systems, it reached out to its end-users for input. PUD employee surveys indicated a strong interest in having more freedom and flexibility for various work functions. More than 83 percent, for example, felt comfortable with changes that would allow them to use a computer — rather than manual forms — to update personnel information, make changes to benefits, and request time off from work. Employees appreciated having better access to this information at a single entry point.

In terms of training, employees ranked hands-on classroom instruction as the preferred means of learning the new



ONE systems, followed by Web-based and video instruction. As components of ONE came online, the utility followed suit to customize its training to different work styles.

“We’re not only focusing on go-live training, but on sustained training that recognizes the need for ongoing support across the utility to ensure data quality and effective processes,” ONE Program Executive Garth Williams said. “A comprehensive training plan is an integral part of our new tomorrow.”

During early implementation, the PUD has emphasized the many benefits to employees. Employees in the Finance and

Contracts and Purchasing areas, for example, will avoid many redundant functions in the future. They currently enter the same information into multiple systems to serve particular business needs. ONE removes many of these functions. It eliminates antiquated software, much of which may have been implemented 15 years ago or more. It brings the utility closer to industry standards.

### Communicating change

The PUD has adopted a fun, positive, and supportive tone to engage employees in the ONE implementation. It draws on a range of existing communications vehicles — including the utility’s intranet, newsletters, postcards, videos, posters, and email updates — to reduce any potential fear of change. Employee town meeting events have provided other ways of exchanging information and answering questions.

“We have been consistent in our communications with employees, conveying that it won’t always be easy and that it will take all of us working together to make the ONE program successful,” Communications & Marketing Director Julie Cunningham said. “We have stressed that many of the new systems are easy to learn, and when challenges arise we have multiple resources available for support.”

One of the key strategies has included using “change champions,” a group of 50 employees who help with questions and support.

“To be successful and increase end-user adoption, we’ve needed to engage at least one end-user in every department who serves as a change champion or super user,” said Communication & Marketing Analyst Lisa Hunnewell. “They educate, inform, and translate the specifics of the project into the language of the employees on their team so that each employee is a part of the transformation process and not just a recipient of the end result.”

In employee newsletters, videos, and other communications, ONE project leads and change champions are identified so employees can approach them with questions. Communications have been transparent, acknowledging the bumps in the road during implementation, but also explaining that the long-term benefits, such as new self-service functions, will be extremely valuable for both employees and customers. In addition, over time the ONE program will create greater efficiency for utility crew dispatch systems and help to maintain high service reliability levels.

Since the ONE program eliminates so many existing systems, as changes to IT systems are made over time, the testing and integration processes will be greatly streamlined. ONE lays the foundation to deliver multiple improvements and provide better service to the utility’s customers in the coming months and years. **NWPPA**

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## ONE Program’s guiding principles:

- **Foundational:** The ONE Program provides a business process foundation supported by technology that will be instrumental in allowing for future business growth and improvements.
- **Consistent:** The ONE Program will result in a single point of entry for information and will facilitate integrated master data for the PUD as a whole.
- **Integration:** The ONE Program will improve the PUD’s ability to serve customers in a variety of ways, providing employees with the ability to view more comprehensive information about the customer and business in one place.
- **Best practices:** Throughout the ONE Program, employees will be asked to put the PUD first when making business process decisions.
- **Minimal customization:** The applications will be deployed using standard SAP functionality whenever possible with minimal customizations to the SAP “Out-of-the-Box” code.
- **Sustained collaboration and support:** Extra resources will be dedicated to provide for ongoing collaboration between IT, the PUD as a whole, and its external partners.
- **Emphasis on training:** There will be an emphasis on sustained training for impacted employees that will provide for both technical and business process aspects. **NWPPA**



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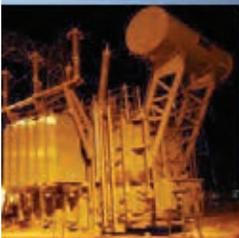
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by Abby Fansler

# Utilities work to achieve cultures of operational excellence through safety training

**W**hen Joni Wilburn started her career in customer service at Snohomish County PUD (Everett, Wash.), she was provided the tools of her trade — a desk, computer, and phone — and went to work without thinking about safety.

“Back then safety was never considered by anyone sitting at a desk all day,” Wilburn said. “That was a concern for the field, for people who could fall off poles into ditches.”

Knowingly or unknowingly, employees throughout the business were taking risks every day.

Soon poor posture and a haphazard office arrangement caused Wilburn a lost-time repetitive motion injury. That’s when she realized the importance of ergonomics, and that safety is part of everyone’s job. In 2009, the PUD’s leaders had an epiphany of their own and committed to raising risk awareness so employees would develop a personal stake in safety.

“We couldn’t wait until a catastrophic event woke us up before we started to behave differently,” said Assistant General Manager for Customer and Energy Services Jim West. “What are we allowing ourselves to do that’s leading to these incidents, and how do we change that and reawaken our sense of personal accountability?”

### Revealing reality

In 2010 at Lane Electric Cooperative (Eugene, Ore.), a string of minor dings and scratches led to the kind of major incident every leader fears. Two employees were injured while clearing brush around power lines; both men suffered deep lacerations and one of them a serious concussion.

“That turned this cooperative upside down,” said Rick Crinklaw, who was general manager at the time. “When you employ about 50 people and two of them go down, that’s a big deal. And facing the fear and uncertainty of those

injured employees and their families — it’s something no leader ever wants to experience.”

Crinklaw realized that years of low incident rates led to complacency. Employees were overlooking risks and managers were allowing it to happen.

“The injuries showed us we weren’t that good, we were lucky,” Crinklaw said.

About two years apart, for different — but both urgent — reasons, leaders at Lane Electric and Snohomish County PUD committed to Caterpillar’s Zero-Incident Performance (ZIP) Process and began by administering the Safety Perception Survey. The all-employee survey measures 20 categories that influence safety, such as communication, recognition for performance, supervisor training, and management credibility. A data-driven picture of the current culture reveals gaps in the way front-line employees, supervisors, and managers view the organization’s commitment to safety. Often survey results show that leaders’ sincere intentions are not being seen and felt by the workforce in a way that supports safety as a core value. Areas where the greatest perception gaps exist are where improvement is needed most.

“I found the approach I was taking in response to those injuries was counterproductive,” said Crinklaw, who admits

his impulse was to address the problem through more stringent safety policies. “The survey told me employees wanted to be contributors to the solution, rather than subjects of a top-down approach to improvement.”

### Empowering people

A Safety Steering Team uses survey data to set a long-term plan for safety improvement, aligned with the organization’s strategic goals, and determine where efforts should be focused.

Snohomish County PUD selected inspections as its first continuous improvement project, with a goal to integrate recognition for performance into the routine task. A team of front-line employees met for a four-day Rapid Improvement Workshop to outline the weak-



*Lane Electric employees have taken luck out of their safety management equation by developing clearly defined, measurable safety activities for all levels of the organization.*

nesses in the current process and develop an improved approach, which included clearly defined activities for employees, supervisors, and managers. Their solution, and every Continuous Improvement (CI) Team project, includes a training plan, a communication plan, measurement tools, and a process for recognizing success. At the end of the four-day workshop, CI Team members present their work to the Safety Steering Team and leadership for feedback.

“This process has provided the first opportunity some employees have ever had to feel like they’re a part of business decisions,” said West, who is on the Snohomish County PUD Safety Steering Team. “They’ve taken pride in having a voice and a platform for investing their hearts and minds in work that is impacting everyone.”

Wilburn, the long-time customer service representative, is also part of the Safety Steering Team and has participated on a CI Team as well. “Everyone is skeptical of change, but the more employees are involved in the change, the quicker they’ll embrace it,” she said. “Now we feel lucky that management is giving us time to do this work.”

Each CI Team solution is piloted by a few groups, adjusted as necessary based on feedback, then finalized by the CI Team and implemented throughout the entire organization. The CI Team members drive the entire development and roll-out, and are involved in training their peers to use the process. In its six-year journey, Snohomish County PUD has completed 10 continuous safety improvement projects, consistently applying a define-train-measure-recognize accountability model to make small changes that all together have transformed operations.

### Learning to fish

Along the journey, some organizations are also taught to be their own proficient practitioners of the ZIP Process. Steering Team or CI Team members who stand out as strong advocates for the journey can, through a Train-the-Trainer process, become effective facilitators of the process.

Alaska’s Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) has completed a series of CI Team projects facilitated by Caterpillar, including near-miss reporting, job briefings, safety communication, hazardous energy control, and campus security. The most recent CI Teams at GVEA have been led by employee facilitators and the topics are stretching beyond safety into other areas of the business where greater efficiency is needed, such as performance evaluations.

“Our model is truly about teaching people to fish for life, to use a coined phrase, rather than giving them fish for



*GVEA employees gather for a safety conversation. Continuous Improvement Team solutions have made these routine meetings more engaging and informative.*

a day, and it can be applied to any business-critical issue,” said Chip Steensma, a Caterpillar consultant who has worked with Lane Electric and GVEA.

Snohomish County PUD has taken big steps to run the process independently. Ten employees are now equipped to facilitate CI Teams and conduct safety culture training. Stephanie Strom has supported the CI Teams from the beginning of the journey, developed a passion for the process, and decided to pursue facilitator training.

*Continued on page 16*

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*The key to safety culture improvement is undoubtedly employee engagement, but eliminating luck from the safety management equation requires a shift in how an organization measures its performance.*

“Being a safety CI Team facilitator is very rewarding,” Strom said. “The process challenges the way people think about safety and brings them to a place where they take personal ownership of safety.”

Strom was recently appointed to a full-time position to coordinate and implement the PUD’s culture-change effort, a testament to how much leaders value the process and her impact as a safety champion.

### Measuring success

The key to safety culture improvement is undoubtedly employee engagement, but eliminating luck from the safety management equation requires a shift in how an organization measures its performance.

Looking at the rate of incidents — undesirable outcomes — is the traditional method of gauging success, but Snohomish County PUD, Lane Electric, and GVEA have found that measuring actions to prevent incidents is a more accurate indicator of safety performance. As such, every CI Team solution includes activities for each level of the organization to fulfill in order to keep the system on track. The Safety Perception Survey not only gets organizations started on the right path, it’s a tool for measuring the success of CI projects and overall culture-change journey.

After the full implementation of three CI Team solutions, Lane Electric took the survey for a second time to see if employees’ perceptions had improved. The results were astonishing, even to leaders who were tracking improvement in lagging indicators. Employees’ positive responses increased by nearly 20 percent over the previous survey results, growth few companies have achieved over a two-year period. In some categories, the results showed more than 100-percent improvement. Not surprisingly, the categories the Safety Steering Team sought to address through CI projects saw the greatest uptick in positive response.

Snohomish County PUD has taken the survey about every two years since beginning its journey and is now preparing to take a fourth survey. Just like Lane Electric, the follow-up survey data at Snohomish has validated that when employees are involved in solutions building, culture improves.

“The survey shows us that if we focus on something, we’ll improve — it couldn’t be more clear,” Strom said. “We’ve addressed the low-hanging fruit, the issues that impact everyone, so we’re now looking at teams focused on specific safety processes. There is no shortage of areas to improve.”

Lane Electric’s journey was sparked when complacency resulted in trauma, so management is attuned to the need for persistence to avoid a setback or a performance plateau.

“The struggle up-front was the idea that it was impossible to get to zero,” said Tony Toncray, operations manager at Lane Electric. “We’ve jumped that hurdle — we’ve even seen zero — but our biggest challenge now is keeping the effort fresh and fun, because we know the consequences of taking our foot off the gas.”

All three organizations recognize the ZIP Process is not a flavor of the month, it’s a pathway to a culture that recognizes that hazards are inevitable, but injuries are not. It’s not just about reaching zero; it’s about achieving a culture of operational excellence. **NWPPA**

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## Register now for NWPPA’s Safety Culture Conference

**W**ant to learn more about how you can implement a stronger safety culture within your organization? Join NWPPA for its Safety Culture Conference in Vancouver, Wash., August 12-13. This one-and-a-half-day conference will bring safety leaders in the utility industry together to share lessons learned to educate and engage executives on the development and sustainability of safety culture excellence. NWPPA encourages policy makers, CEOs, general managers, and senior management to attend. The conference will include the following discussion topics:

- What top leaders do in safety
- Understanding safety culture excellence
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- What makes a great leader **NWPPA**

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### Central Lincoln, Kittitas win Energy Innovator Award

The American Public Power Association (APPA) chose Central Lincoln PUD (Newport, Ore.) and Kittitas County PUD (Ellensburg, Wash.) as two of four recipients of APPA's 2015 Energy Innovator Award.

The award acknowledges Central Lincoln's work on its Conservation Voltage Regulation (CVR) program that uses advanced metering infrastructure. The innovative project, which demonstrated CVR in the Lincoln Beach area of Central Lincoln's service territory, reduced voltage by 2.9 percent and provided energy savings of 1.92 percent in a pilot project. This resulted in an annualized savings of 168 megawatt-hours from a single substation transformer. (NWPPA *Bulletin*, February 2015, page 14.)

"Congratulations to our Chief Engineer/Systems Engineering Manager **Bruce Lovelin** and the members of his team on winning this prestigious award for Central Lincoln. We are very proud of the success of this project," said Central Lincoln's General Manager **Debra Smith**.

Kittitas PUD was recognized for its unique automatic meter reading program utilizing a small aircraft equipped with a radio transceiver that has the ability to read all the meters within a couple hours.

APPA's Energy Innovator Award recognizes "utility programs that have demonstrated advances in the development or application of creative, energy-efficient techniques or technologies, provide better service to electric customers or projects that increase the efficiency of utility operations or resource efficiency." **NWPPA**

### BPA adds two to executive office

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has selected **Michelle Manary** to be its vice president of Transmission Marketing and Sales. She began her new position on June 1. In addition, **John Hairston**, who has worked at BPA since 1991, has been named its chief administrative officer. He takes over after managing a number of key business, compliance, and executive functions at BPA.



*Central Lincoln Board President Larkin Kaliher (center) accepts Central Lincoln's award from APPA Board Chair Paula DiFonzo and APPA Nominations and Awards Committee Member Gary Stauffer.*

"Michelle brings over 17 years of impressive and well-rounded experience to this vitally important position," said **Richard Shaheen**, senior vice president for Transmission Services.

In her new position, Manary will provide executive leadership in the planning, development, and administration of the overall marketing of transmission products and services. She also will lead the implementation of the full range of contracts associated with transmission products sold by BPA.

Since October 2014, Manary has been BPA's acting vice president for Northwest Requirements Marketing in Power Services. She started her career in the electric industry in 1998 and has worked at BPA for 17 years. During that time, she has held several management positions in Power Services, Transmission Services, and Corporate Strategy.

"John has the right skill set and well-rounded experience to help move BPA forward," BPA Administrator **Elliot Mainzer** said.

The newly established CAO position elevates the functions previously overseen by the former executive vice president of Internal Business Services that ensure that each work group receives the attention and leadership it needs from BPA's executive office. The chief administrative officer is responsible for providing policy and strategic guidance concerning BPA's internal operations.

Since June 2013, Hairston has served as acting executive vice president of Internal Business Services. While serving in that role, he oversaw BPA's Supply Chain organization, Human Capital Management, the Safety Office, Workplace Services, and Security and Continuity of Operations. **NWPPA**

### Columbia River PUD honored with safety awards

Columbia River PUD (St. Helens, Ore.) has been honored by the American Public Power Association (APPA), as well as by NWPPA, for safe operating practices. The PUD had no lost-time accidents in 2013 or 2014, and earned first place awards in both the national and regional competitions for their efforts.

"Working day-in and day-out with the power of electricity is not something to take lightly," said **Kenneth Roberts**, chair of the APPA Safety Committee and line supervisor for Huntsville Utilities in Alabama. "The recipients of this award understand the essential nature of safety in our line of work. It's embedded in their work culture."

More than 290 utilities entered the APPA awards contest, which is the highest number of entrants in the history of the program. Entrants were categorized based on their total hours of worker exposure, and ranked based on their incident rate. The incident rate is defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and is based on the

number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours.

“We are proud of the service we provide to customers,” said General Manager **Rick Lugar**. “But above all else, we are proud of our safety record — and happy to say that we do everything we can to ensure our employees go home safely to their families each and every night.” **NWPPA**

## Chelan’s general counsel, Carol Wardell, retires

“It’s time,” Carol Wardell told the Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) Board of Commissioners on June 1. After more than 17 years on staff at the PUD as an attorney (15 of those as general counsel, 2 as staff attorney, and 8 as the PUD’s outside counsel), Wardell said it’s time to focus a little less on the professional side of life and a little more on the personal side. Her retirement was effective on June 11.



In a briefing during the commissioners’ regular meeting, Wardell took board members on a brief walk down memory lane, reminding them of some of the projects that took place on her watch. This included salmon protection plans for Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams designed to address returns of Endangered Species Act-listed fish; two license renewal projects; setting up the District’s security program post-9/11; and many, many more high-profile efforts on behalf of the District.

Prior to joining the PUD, Wardell was a state Supreme Court clerk out of law school and then went into private practice. She was appointed a Superior Court judge for Chelan and Douglas Counties in 1991 by then-Gov. **Booth Gardner**, winning election in 1991, and re-election in 1992 and 1996. She was the first female judge in Chelan and Douglas Counties.

**Erik Wahlquist** took over the duties of general counsel from Wardell in 2013. Joining the PUD’s staff attorney, **Karen Wiggum**, is **Charles Von Reis**, recently hired as a staff attorney. **NWPPA**

## Grays Harbor PUD ratifies three-year union contract

The Grays Harbor Public Utility District (Aberdeen, Wash.) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 have reached agreement on a three-year contract. The agreement was ratified by a vote of union members at a meeting held on June 1 and approved by the PUD Board of Commissioners on June 15.

“I want to thank members of the PUD and IBEW Local 77 negotiating teams for all of their hard work. The efforts of the leaders on both sides have aided in a fair and cooperative process that culminated in the agreement which the union members approved,” said PUD General Manager **Dave Ward**. “The members of the PUD and union negotiating teams arrived at the table with the goal of discussions in good faith. We achieved that goal and again have a competitive contract. The terms of the new agreement will allow the PUD to maintain a skilled workforce dedicated to our mission of serving our community with quality utility services.” **NWPPA**

## Gaines selected for APPA Executive Committee

At its annual national conference, the American Public Power Association (APPA) appointed Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) Director and CEO **Bill Gaines** to the Executive Committee of its board of directors. Gaines was elected to the APPA Board last year as one of two representatives of Pacific Northwest public power utilities. The board’s 10-member Executive Committee is the primary governing body for APPA.

“It is a high honor to be asked by my peers to join APPA’s Executive Committee,” Gaines said. “Just as it was an honor last year to be nominated by the Tacoma Public Utility Board and elected as an APPA Board member.”

In addition to his roles with APPA, Gaines is serving a two-year term as chairman of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC). The LPPC chair is elected by the CEOs of the member utilities.

“Active participation in the leadership of these organizations pays many dividends to Tacoma Public Utilities,” Gaines said. “We gain an early awareness of energy, financial, and environmental policy trends, and we are positioned to help shape legislation and regulation that affect the industry in ways that are beneficial to our utility. We also have a very direct opportunity to learn from our peer utilities and to share our knowledge and experiences with others.”

Tacoma Public Utilities has a long history of leadership in national energy and utility policymaking. Upon retiring from TPU, former director and CEO **Mark Crisson** served as president and CEO of APPA until his retirement last year. **NWPPA**

## Two more NWPPA members receive RP3 designation

NWPPA has learned that two more member utilities received the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3®) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing consumers with the

*Continued on page 20*

highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. Congratulations to Idaho Falls Power for being awarded the Diamond RP3 designation, and Northern Wasco County PUD (The Dalles, Ore.) for receiving the RP3 designation for a fourth time this year.

The RP3 designation recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. The RP3 designation now lasts for three years (up from two), so the 97 utilities that earned the designation this year join the 94 that received it last year for a total of 191. **NWPPA**

### 36 straight years, Mason 3 passes another state audit

**M**ason PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.) has received its 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive clean bill of health from the Washington State Auditor's Office.

PUD 3 officials met with representatives of the Auditor's Office on June 16 to review the annual examination of the PUD's finances and operations.

"PUD 3 strives for excellence in the management of its finances and in providing reliable services every day to our community," said **Annette Creekpaum**, PUD 3 manager. "We're pleased that we have been recognized once again as regularly meeting the high standards required by state laws and regulations."

The Washington State Auditor's office focuses on two general areas during its auditing work. Financial audits ensure public funds are accounted for and controls are in place to protect public resources. An accountability audit certifies that units of state and local government adhere to required laws and regulations relating to financial matters such as bidding and contracts.

PUD 3 has received 10 consecutive Certificates of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the International Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. & Canada. Its annual reports have won honors from NWPPA and the American Public Power Association (APPA). **NWPPA**



*Mason PUD 3's Finance Department:  
(L-R) Jenifer Sliva, Karissa Byrne, Emily  
Gott, Dawn Thompson, Sherry Speaks,  
Brian Taylor, and Dani Leboki.*

### SMUD unveils second EV fast-charge station

**E**lectric vehicle (EV) drivers have a new resource in the Sacramento region — a fast-charge station located immediately adjacent to the Interstate 80 freeway in Citrus Heights. The fast-charge station is just the second in the region to accommodate most types of EVs manufactured by foreign and domestic automakers, and it's one of the first installed in the U.S. by a utility. SMUD installed the first EV fast charger in the region last year near its headquarters and plans to open more fast-charge stations in the coming years.

EV drivers will pay approximately \$2 per "gallon" to charge up using the station — about 40 percent less than the current price of gasoline. By using technology that charges vehicles at 480 volts — four times that of a standard household outlet — fast-charge-capable vehicles such as the Nissan Leaf, Chevy Spark EV, BMW i3, and others can fill up about 80 percent of their batteries in 30 minutes or less.

"By installing another fast charger near a major freeway, we're making it easier for EV drivers to travel farther from home and worry less about finding their next charge," said **Ralph Troute**, electric vehicle project manager at SMUD. "In the time it takes to have a cup of coffee, drivers using our new station can hit the road with their vehicles' batteries nearly topped off."

SMUD has also offered special electric vehicle rates for home charging since 1993. Today when drivers charge with one of SMUD's EV rates, they'll pay around 60 cents equivalent per gallon when charging after midnight. Overall, drivers can save upwards of \$1,800 per year by choosing an electric vehicle. **NWPPA**

### Andrew York Rodeo earns national service award

**O**n June 9, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Public Utility Districts received the American Public Power Association (APPA) Community Service Award at the association's national conference. This award recognizes "good neighbor" activities that demonstrate commitment to the community by customer-owned utilities and their employees.

Commissioners from the four North Central Washington PUDs who were at the national conference attended the ceremony and accepted the award.

"This is a tribute to the PUD employees who volunteered countless hours to make the lineman rodeo such a success," said **Dennis Bolz**, Chelan PUD commissioner and former educator. "The award recognizes their commitment to honor a coworker and to help generations of students to come."

The Andrew York Lineman Rodeo began in 2005 as a way to honor the life of the Chelan PUD lineman who died after he was hit by a drunken driver while he was on the job. During a decade, the namesake rodeo grew into a regional event. It raised \$190,000 for scholarships and spotlighted the skill and safety required for power line work and how to be safe around electricity.

The rodeo brought together employees from a half-dozen PUDs across Washington state who met nearly year-round to plan and host the annual competition that annually attracted more than 100 utility line workers. The rodeo also put a spotlight on the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

The grand finale event was held in 2014, after fundraising exceeded goals to ensure that the endowment, with interest earnings, will provide scholarships for students far into the future. **NWPPA**

## Dan Murphy named Canby GM

**T**he Canby Utility (Ore.) Board of Directors unanimously voted to hire **Dan Murphy** to fill the vacant general manager position.

Murphy comes to Canby after serving as CEO for Big Bend Electric in Ritzville, Wash., for the past three years. In his more than 25 years of utility-related experience, Murphy has held the positions of president and CEO for Newberry Electric Cooperative in South Carolina; CEO for a cooperative in Oklahoma; manager of member services for a cooperative in Florida; and manager of member and public relations for a cooperative in Georgia. He also worked as a service department supervisor and was responsible for supervising the outside line personnel.

Murphy is excited about the opportunity to lead the utility and become involved in the Canby community. **NWPPA**

## Vera Water and Power publishes 2014 Annual Report

**T**he 2014 Annual Report for Vera Water and Power (Spokane Valley, Wash.) has been published.

The report details financial information, including revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and equity, as well as a comparison of electric rates and water pumped in gallons.

To view the report, please visit [www.verawaterandpower.com](http://www.verawaterandpower.com) and scroll down to Annual Reports. If you wish to obtain a hard copy, you may print the report from their website. **NWPPA**



## MEA welcomes members to new power plant

**M**atanuska Electric Association (MEA) welcomed over 500 members to tour the new Eklutna Generation Station (EGS) power plant on June 6. The Member Open House followed a ceremonial ribbon cutting by MEA General Manager **Joe Griffith** and MEA Board President **Lois Lester** to officially open the facility.

The opening represented a historic moment for MEA as it transitions to a self-generating utility with the capability to produce enough power for all its members.

EGS can produce 171 megawatts from its 10 natural-gas-powered 17.1-megawatt generators, with room for two more. The plant strengthens the larger Railbelt electrical system, adding grid stability and unique load following capabilities.

“We were excited to see so many members from throughout our diverse service area take us up on the offer to tour their new power plant,” said MEA Director of Public Relations **Julie Estey**. “This open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony acknowledge the many partners, contractors, employees, and members that dedicated themselves to this important project and the resulting future benefits to members.”

The 10 new Wärtsilä engines/generators more effectively serve the co-op’s primarily residential load and provide power 30 percent more efficiently than the machines previously serving the cooperative. These generators represent a significant reduction in fuel consumption and related costs, and are also capable of burning diesel fuel for added reliability and security. The project was responsible for nearly 300 jobs during construction, and creates 28 permanent positions for almost exclusively Alaskans. **NWPPA**



*Some of the over 500 members who toured MEA’s new EGS power plant on June 6.*



*MEA Board President Lois Lester and MEA General Manager Joe Griffith cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the facility.*

### POWER Engineers announces leadership transition plan

At the POWER Engineers Incorporated (POWER) Annual Shareholders Meeting on May 13, CEO Jack Hand announced that Chief Administrative Officer Bret Moffett will take over the role of CEO in May 2016.

Moffett will report to Hand and hold the title of president until next year's transition. The two will work closely together as part of POWER's ongoing leadership transition plan.

As CEO, Hand will remain in charge of POWER's executive management team and have overall responsibility for the company. Hand will continue to serve on POWER's board of directors, a position he has held since 1997.

POWER Engineers is a global consulting engineering firm specializing in the delivery of integrated solutions for energy; food and beverage facilities; communications; environmental; and federal markets. For more information about POWER Engineers, please visit [www.powereng.com](http://www.powereng.com).

NWPPA

### Felzer elected as NAED Women in Industry chairperson

HD Supply Power Solutions' Stacey Felzer has been elected to a two-year term as chairperson of the National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED) Women in Industry Committee, which sets the agenda for the Women in Industry Forums.

This annual event is focused on bringing females in the electrical industry together to make connections for personal and professional growth, increase their visibility in the industry, and to share valuable tips and best practices for success.

Felzer has more than 15 years of industry experience and currently serves as the national business development manager for HD Supply Power Solutions.

"We congratulate Stacey for this significant recognition," said Jim Markisohn, vice president of marketing, HD Supply Power Solutions. "She is an accomplished industry veteran whose contributions at HD Supply Power Solutions have been notable and included the development and execution of industry-leading marketing programs, and now carry over to her current business development role. NAED is fortunate to have Stacey in this leadership role, and she is a great role model for women in the electrical industry."

This year's NAED Women in the Industry Conference was held June 23-26 in Denver, Colo. The conference theme was "Elevate. Empower. Excel.," and focused on promoting women to achieve new professional heights within the electrical industry.

HD Supply Power Solutions ([www.hdsupplypowersolutions.com](http://www.hdsupplypowersolutions.com)) offers the industry's most extensive and dynamic portfolio of products, services, and solutions for the public power, investor-owned utilities, construction, and industrial markets. NWPPA

### Ater Wynne partner shapes, moves HB 2734

With the Oregon Senate's approval of House Bill 2734 on June 23, Land Bank Authority legislation is on its way to the governor. Doug MacCourt, a partner with Ater Wynne LLP in Portland and one of the founding members of the Oregon Brownfield Coalition, helped draft and pass HB 2734 to give local governments across Oregon a new tool in cleaning up and redeveloping the state's estimated 13,000 contaminated properties or "brownfields."

MacCourt, chair of the Land Use and Redevelopment practice, played a key role in drafting and supporting this new bill through the legislature. He has been a leader in brownfields legislation, starting with Oregon's landmark revision to cleanup laws in 1995. MacCourt was a member of Oregon's first Brownfields Task Force, created by the 1995 legislature, whose recommendations included the establishment of the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund and other cleanup funding sources at Business Oregon. In the 1990s, he created and managed the City of Portland Brownfield Redevelopment Program where he successfully negotiated and implemented redevelopment of residential, commercial, mixed use, industrial, and transportation projects throughout the Metro area.

"Oregon's Land Bank Authority will be the first of its kind in the U.S focused solely on the cleanup and reuse of brownfields," said MacCourt.

Ater Wynne is a Pacific Northwest law firm that offers strategically focused advice and services in business, litigation, environmental, energy, intellectual property, global trade, employment, real estate, health care, telecommunications, tribal, and construction law. For more information, visit [www.aterwynne.com](http://www.aterwynne.com). NWPPA

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by Deborah Sliz

# NWPPA's stake in a potential energy bill



*In comments filed in response to the EPA draft rule, NWPPA acknowledged the intent of 111(d), but also noted our concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed rule's interim deadlines and "building blocks" on electric reliability and the lack of safeguards to protect the electric consumer from financial impacts of meeting the mandatory targets.*

**W**ith hearings on energy efficiency, infrastructure, power supply, and accountability concluded, the House Energy and Commerce and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees are working to find areas of bipartisan agreement that can be addressed in an energy bill.

Both committees plan to use the month of July to mark up and advance their respective measures. NWPPA has a direct interest in several of the issues that will be considered, including:

### Hydropower reform

House and Senate Republicans would like to streamline current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) processes for licensing and relicensing non-federal hydropower facilities. Themes common to bills introduced in both chambers include making FERC the exclusive, or at least the lead, agency in the process; adding deadlines for state and federal agency license conditions and allowing FERC to treat late conditions as discretionary, not mandatory; reducing the need for duplicative studies; and limiting the ability to those agencies to take more than one "bite of the apple."

Democrats are unlikely to go that far, although they acknowledge that the licensing process takes much longer than it should.

The reform effort suffered a blow when the California Water Board sent a strong letter of opposition on May 26, saying the draft GOP House bill "would result in harm to California's water quality and associated beneficial uses, public lands, and fish and wildlife by removing key state and federal authorities designed to protect the environment."

NWPPA supports efforts to reform the lengthy, costly hydro licensing process; therefore, the Association joined a letter that was spearheaded by the National Hydropower Association and signed by more than 50 organizations, including APPA and NRECA, urging leaders of the House and Senate energy committees to include provisions to improve the hydropower licensing process as part of their comprehensive energy bills this year. NWPPA is also work-

ing with other Northwest regional public power organizations to send a letter of support for hydropower licensing reforms and recognition of all hydropower as a renewable resource.

### Electric reliability

The House and Senate are considering a pair of electric reliability provisions in response to industry, FERC, and other concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed greenhouse gas rule, the Clean Power Plan. One measure is a reliability "safety valve" that would protect from penalty an electric generator faced with a conflict between compliance with an environmental regulation and compliance with a DOE "must-run" order.

The second is a longer-range "reliability assurance mechanism" that would authorize FERC comments on, and recommendations for, a proposed "major rule" that may significantly affect the reliability of the bulk power system.

In comments filed in response to the EPA draft rule, NWPPA acknowledged the intent of 111(d), but also noted our concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed rule's interim deadlines and "building blocks" on electric reliability and the lack of safeguards to protect the electric consumer from financial impacts of meeting the mandatory targets.

### Emergency authority to protect the grid

The House and Senate may find bipartisan support for bills introduced in both bodies that would authorize the Department of Energy (DOE) to direct utilities to action in the event the President declares an emergency involving grid security (including the imminent danger of a cyber, physical, or other threat to the grid.) The electric sub-sector grid security coalition, well as virtually every other trade association involved in the electric industry, has long said it would support such legislation if it required a written presidential declaration of the emergency; the authority was short-lived and limited to the bulk power system; and the federal agency in charge was the DOE.

The Senate bill (S. 1068) introduced by Sens. James Risch (R—Idaho) and Martin Heinrich (D—N.M.) is preferable to the draft House title, because the House version would extend the DOE’s emergency authority to distribution facilities that serve critical defense infrastructure. Both bills, however, create a federal right to cost recovery for FERC-jurisdictional utilities for costs of responding to the emergency orders. APPA and NRECA oppose the cost recovery provision.

### Cyber security

NWPPA has been working with Sen. Maria Cantwell’s (D—Wash.) office to craft and build support for a DOE grant program to assist small electric systems to mitigate cyber threats and participate in the two-way information-sharing program likely to be authorized by Congress this year. If the grid emergency provisions move ahead, this could be a place to attach the grant authorization. Sen. Risch’s office has voiced interest in possibly co-sponsoring the grant provision.

### Vegetation management

The House Natural Resources Committee has approved a bipartisan vegetation management bill that it would like to see packaged with the Energy and Commerce Committee’s bill as it moves to the House bill. The bill (H.R. 2358), sponsored by Reps. Ryan Zinke (R—Mont.) and Kurt Schrader (D—Ore.), would streamline Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service processes for access to utility rights-of-way located on federal lands they administer. NWPPA endorsed the bill in a May 26 letter.

“Many of our members own or rely on transmission and distribution facilities that cross federal lands,” NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker wrote. “Access to these lands, especially for vegetation management, is absolutely essential to ensuring electric reliability and mitigating potential fire hazards. We appreciated being able to weigh in on the draft legislation on behalf of NWPPA’s members early in the process.”

### Distributed generation (DG)

In the Senate, a number of bills have been introduced to try to steer the national debate over distributed generation. S. 1213, introduced by Sen. Angus King (I—Maine), created a stir among many utilities, including NWPPA members, because it seemed to be an effort to give FERC a role in developing interconnection standards, as well as set pricing policy. Since it was introduced, King’s staff has denied that was the senator’s intent and said that they will seek advice from the DOE and stakeholders as they work to revise the bill. While King supports DG as a matter of consumer choice, and a hedge against cyber attacks on the grid, his staff said he would like to help promote the

resource, but not take decision making away from state and local authorities, where it now resides.

NWPPA sent a letter opposing the original bill to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair and Ranking Member Cantwell.

### In summary

If no bipartisan agreement can be reached before the August recess begins on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the prospects for passage of any energy bill will be diminished. **NWPPA**

*Deborah Sliz is with Morgan Meguire, NWPPA’s Washington, D.C., consulting firm. She can be reached at either (202) 661-6180 or [dsliz@morganmeguire.com](mailto:dsliz@morganmeguire.com).*

## NWPPA sends comments to D.C.

**O**n behalf of NWPPA and its members, Executive Director Anita Decker recently submitted comments to FERC and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

In regards to FERC’s Reliability Technical Conference on June 4, Decker sent a letter on June 29 saying that NWPPA supports NERC’s evolution of “compliance enforcement to a more risk-based program that places the emphasis on entities, issues, and equipment that can truly affect the reliability of the Bulk Power System (BES).”

NWPPA agrees that “it is imperative that NERC establish a CIP Version 5 low impact asset technical advisory group ... to start working through implementation guidance issues.” NWPPA also supports CIP-002 “being revisited by a low impact asset technical advisory group to include risk-based assessment language in the standard,” wrote Decker.

She concluded the letter with this: “There are many significant changes to both the electric system and the regulatory environment phasing in over the next several years. These will have a varied effect on utilities, depending on their size and location in the US. FERC should be diligent and continue to push in critical areas that can profoundly affect reliability (CPP and renewable penetration), and limit the oversight burden where it does not.”

On July 2, Decker sent a letter to Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R—Alaska), Sen. Maria Cantwell (D—Wash.), Rep. Fred Upton (R—Mich.), and Rep. Frank Pallone (D—N.J.) in strong support of “legislation to reform the hydropower relicensing process and to recognize all hydropower as a renewable resource in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.” The letter was co-signed by WPUDA, NCPA, PPC, and several other industry associations and utilities. **NWPPA**

by Lance Robertson

# Green doesn't mean what it used to in today's utility industry

## How utilities are dealing with legalized marijuana

Tom Williams knew this was serious business when he and a fellow key account manager at the Eugene Water & Electric Board were invited to tour a Southern Oregon medical marijuana grow operation earlier this year.

As Williams and Steve Mangan looked at the rows and rows of cannabis growing under high-intensity lights, the indoor pot-farm owner talked to them about his plans to move the operation to Eugene and expand it when Oregon's new recreational marijuana legalization law goes into effect.

"This is an emerging industry that has high potential for increasing jobs in our community, as well as generating additional revenue for the utility," Williams says. "These are serious businesses. We are taking them seriously, and we hope they see us as taking them seriously."

From Anchorage to Ashland, similar stories are playing out as three Northwest states — Washington, Oregon, and Alaska — begin to implement the voters' will to legalize recreational use of marijuana. With the legalization comes the need to power all that pot growing, processing, and selling, which has drawn the attention of the region's public utilities.

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*"When we looked at the electricity consumption of a single marijuana grow operation, that really got our attention. We realized very quickly that this is a business that will have an impact on our operations and our finances."*

Joel Myer, public information and government relations manager for Mason County PUD No. 3

Utilities are looking at a number of issues, concerns, and opportunities, from the amount of electricity the cannabis industry uses to ensuring that the added power demand won't reduce the reliability or safety of localized electric distribution systems. Many public utilities also are concerned that increased demand for electricity will force them to raise electric rates for all customers, while a handful of utilities see the emerging commercial cannabis industry as an opportunity to boost revenues lost due to the lingering effects of the Great Recession in the Pacific Northwest.

"When we looked at the electricity consumption of a single marijuana grow operation, that really got our attention," said Joel Myer, public information and government relations manager for Mason County PUD No. 3 in Shelton, Wash. "We realized very quickly that this is a business that will have an impact on our operations and our finances."

Over the past three years, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska joined Colorado as the only four states (plus the District of Columbia) to legalize the recreational use of cannabis. Washington voters approved a ballot measure in 2012, followed by Oregon and Alaska in 2014. Each state is going through a process to create rules and regulations for implementation of these laws.

Washington is about one year ahead of Oregon — recreational sales of marijuana began in the Evergreen State in July 2014. Washington also has put in place rules and regulations for businesses that want to grow, process, distribute, and commercially sell cannabis. Alaska's law went into effect in January 2015, and Oregon's law went into effect just this month. However, state governments in both Alaska and Oregon are still wrestling with creating the regulations and licensing procedures for commercial operations. Those should be in effect by January 1, 2016.

Some consumer-owned Alaska utilities are taking a "wait and see" position until the legislature "hammers out the details and the regulatory framework" by the end of 2015, said Joe Gallagher, director of member relations for Homer Electric Cooperative. "It's pretty unclear at this point what the impact will be because nobody knows the rules."

Alaska utilities also have testified before legislative committee's writing regulations that utilities should be allowed to inspect grow operations to ensure that all electricity usage is being paid for and to ensure the safety of the electric grid.

In Washington and Oregon, passage of the ballot measures has set off a kind of gold rush in some areas of both states as commercial growers jockey to create markets for themselves. Utilities are especially interested because grow operations often use hefty amounts of electricity. Oregon's law also allows for individuals to grow their own, which may add to a utility's overall electricity demand.

According to some initial calculations by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, growing four marijuana plants indoors to maturity uses as much electricity as 29 refrigerators. The Council estimates that commercial grow operations will increase overall electricity demand in Oregon and Washington by a combined 34 average megawatts by 2020 — and nearly double current consumption by 2035.

The typical indoor commercial cannabis grow operation consumes about 200 watts of power per square foot, or about eight times the energy per square foot as a typical commercial building and 18 times as much energy as the average U.S. home, according to a presentation for Northwest utilities conducted by Portland General Electric in late February. In many cases, commercial growers use large, high-intensity lights similar to what are used in football stadiums, theaters, or other similar venues.

Mason County PUD No. 3 counts itself as a public utility that is embracing the opportunities of legalized cannabis while trying to ensure that existing customers are protected from any negative impacts due to additional power demand.

"We see it as a benefit to our county's economy," said Justin Holzgrove, Mason No. 3's energy resources manager. "We have cheap power and a rural setting, so they have room to set up shop."

Holzgrove estimates that the 41 state-licensed cannabis growers already operating in Mason No. 3's service territory have added more than 1 average megawatt to the utility's overall demand. Additional growers awaiting state approval could double that in the next year or so, he added. That is additional revenue that will help the utility's finances — without impacting other customers.

Like many other public utilities, Mason No. 3 is below the cap on low-cost Bonneville Power Administration electricity, but might fall into BPA's higher-cost Tier 2 power in the near future if the utility has to purchase additional power to meet growing demand.

However, Mason No. 3 became the first utility in Washington to develop a special "I-502" rate (named after the Washington ballot measure). This rate structure is designed to insulate the utility's other retail customers from the added costs of buying higher-priced power to meet the needs of growers. Currently, the special cannabis-grower rate is competitive compared to other commercial rates, Holzgrove says.



*EWEB Key Account Manager Tom Williams talks with "Farmer John" at a medical marijuana conference in Eugene in March. EWEB set up a booth to connect with growers interested in expanding operations or relocating to Eugene once Oregon's recreational marijuana law takes effect. Sitting at the table is EWEB Senior Engineer Richard Jeffries.*

"We ensured that we were providing a rate based on cost recovery," he said. "It comes in competitively with other commercial rates" without negatively impacting other retail customers.

Many other public utilities in Oregon and Washington are wary. Ashland is a municipal utility in Oregon near the California border. While it hasn't seen much interest yet from growers wanting to relocate to Ashland from California, it remains concerned about the potential impact on its customers-owners.

"It's a concern because while we are not yet paying Tier 2 rates, we are getting close to it," said Ashland City Administrator Dave Kanner.

Ashland is considering a special rate to insulate other customers if demand pushes the utility into Tier 2, but Kanner said the utility doesn't "want to target one industry. We'd want to target all large consumers of electricity."

*Continued on page 28*



**EWEB** Eugene Water & Electric Board's  
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Did you know households that grow cannabis use up to 10 times as much energy as the average home? Commercial and industrial grow operations can use as much energy as large scale data centers. **EWEB understands the unique power and water needs of the cannabis industry.** EWEB wants to partner with its customers to ensure a safe and efficient electric power system for all.

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 <p><b>STEVE MANGAN</b> Key Account Manager (541) 685-7376 steve.mangan@eweb.org</p>	<p><b>TOM WILLIAMS</b> Key Account Manager (541) 685-7160 tom.williams@eweb.org</p>
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*The “let us know” messaging campaign grew out of at least one incident in EWEB’s service territory earlier this year in which a medical marijuana operation failed to consult with the utility before increasing power usage — and then promptly blew out three transformers in a commercial area of west Eugene.*

Right now, Ashland is taking a “wait and see” approach with the Oregon Legislature, which continues to wrestle with how to implement the new law. One area of concern is ensuring that cannabis growers be required, encouraged, or incentivized to be more energy efficient, which might keep demand from bumping into the Tier 2 BPA rate.

“Our interest is not in keeping business out of Ashland, it is in incentivizing them to be more energy efficient,” Kanner added. “They’ve got these 100,000 square foot warehouses that are filled with 1,000-watt halide light bulbs. They’re just a massive consumer of electricity.”

There are some barriers to conservation, however. For one, many growers are not convinced that energy-efficient LED lighting provides that same light spectrum for optimum growing conditions.

Ashland’s Kanner also understands that not all public utilities have the same concerns because they might be in a surplus power situation.

“There are some munis way below their Tier 2,” he said. “For them, it’s an opportunity for generating more revenue. For us, it’s more problematic. But someone who isn’t close to Tier 2 and who lost a couple of timber mills during the recession might say, ‘Hey, here’s an opportunity to recover some of that lost revenue.’”

That situation describes the Eugene Water & Electric Board, which has seen its retail demand for electricity fall dramatically, starting even before the recession began in 2008 with the closure of its second-largest customer, the Hynix semiconductor factory. Its largest customer, a paper mill, cut back on production, and a few other smaller indus-

trial and commercial customers fell to the wayside during the recession. The utility sells surplus electricity from its own hydroelectric generation, and also invested heavily in wind power, starting as early as 1999. However, wholesale market prices also have fallen considerably, reducing opportunities to sell its surplus energy.

“We are somewhat unique among other public utilities in the Northwest, in that we are long on power,” said Mark Freeman, manager of EWEB’s Customer Service and Energy Management Services. “We have power to sell. Anything that replaces low-priced wholesale power with revenues from retail power is good business and good for our customers.”

Two years ago, EWEB began developing a “business growth and retention” strategy that provides loans and other incentives for new or expanding businesses, as long as they meet certain job-growth and other criteria. Marijuana growing operations may fit within that strategy, Freeman said.

“Grow operations use a steady, stable supply of power and employ a lot of people,” he said. “Both of those are key elements of our strategy — to encourage existing or new businesses to expand in our community that need power and increase our employment base.”

When Oregon voters passed the ballot measure last year, there “were lots of giggles” among utility people, Freeman said. “But the giggles have faded away. It’s serious business now.”

EWEB also has engaged likely commercial marijuana growers to let them know the utility would welcome them as customers. The utility has engaged and targeted specific

audiences. For example, key account managers Williams and Mangan set up a booth at the Oregon Medical Marijuana Business Conference in Eugene in March, making contacts and providing them with a “Let us know before you grow” flyer that was primarily focused on ensuring growers worked with EWEB to upgrade services and ensure reliability and safety.

The “let us know” messaging campaign grew out of at least one incident in EWEB’s service territory earlier this year in which a medical marijuana operation failed to consult with the utility before increasing power usage — and then promptly blew out three transformers in a commercial area of west Eugene.

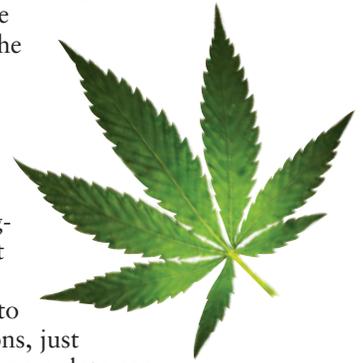
Williams said EWEB is trying to be welcoming without being overly promotional. “So many communities are putting up barriers,” he said. “And by being welcoming, we mean not preventing them from coming here or expanding.”

Mason County PUD No. 3 also is taking a similar proactive approach.

“We’re trying to find the balance of walking the fine line between a flashing green light of ‘come here’ and being responsive to make sure our customers aren’t paying for it,”

Holzgrove said. “What we are hearing from our customers is we need to be business friendly but protect the rest of the customers.”

“This is the law of the land in four states, with perhaps more to come,” Freeman added. “We need to recognize that this is an emerging industry and work to meet their needs for power and water. We have an obligation to serve legitimate grow operations, just as we have an obligation to serve a data center or any other expanding or new industry to our community.” **NWPPA**



*Lance Robertson is the public affairs manager at Eugene Water & Electric Board and is an instructor at the University of Oregon’s School of Journalism and Communication. He can be contacted at either (541) 685-7371 or Lance.Robertson@eweb.org.*

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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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of publication* (for example, February 25 for March issue).
- The *Bulletin* is mailed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Complete the online Job Opportunities ad placement form at [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org).
- NWPPA reserves the right to edit all listings in order to fit size requirements in the publication.

### POSITION: **Utility and Energy Analyst 3**

COMPANY: Oregon Public Utility Commission (Salem, Ore.)

SALARY: \$5,028-\$7,379 monthly.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 14, 2015.

TO APPLY: A complete job description, and application instructions can be found at [www.puc.state.or.us](http://www.puc.state.or.us). Click on "Jobs at PUC" and view announcement PUC15-0101.

### POSITION: **Senior System Engineer**

COMPANY: Copper Valley Electric Association (Glennallen, Alaska)

SALARY: \$120,000-\$130,000 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 15, 2015.

TO APPLY: A complete application packet is available at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

### POSITION: **Utility Accountant**

COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD (Port Townsend, Wash.)

SALARY: \$70,000-\$85,000 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 15, 2015.

TO APPLY: Submit application, found at [www.jeffpud.org](http://www.jeffpud.org), resumé, and cover letter. Send Attn. Annette Johnson, Human Resource Manager, 310 Four Corners Rd., Port Townsend, WA 98368, or email to [ajohnson@jeffpud.org](mailto:ajohnson@jeffpud.org).

### POSITION: **Engineering and Operations Coordinator**

COMPANY: Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative (Junction City, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 15, 2015.

TO APPLY: Send resumé and references to Human Resources, Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Junction City, OR 97448 or email to [lockem@blachlylane.coop](mailto:lockem@blachlylane.coop).

### POSITION: **Associate Operational Technologies Engineering Specialist or Operational Technologies Engineering Specialist**

COMPANY: Snohomish County PUD (Everett, Wash.)

SALARY: \$67,158-\$103,423 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 17, 2015.

TO APPLY: Complete the online application and submit cover letter and resumé at [www.snopud.com](http://www.snopud.com).

### POSITION: **Electrical and Control Systems Engineer**

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

SALARY: \$78,821-\$114,046 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 17, 2015.

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

### POSITION: **Journeyman Lineman**

COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD (Port Townsend, Wash.)

SALARY: \$42.25 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 18, 2015.

TO APPLY: Submit application, found at [www.jeffpud.org](http://www.jeffpud.org), resumé,

and cover letter. Send Attn. Annette Johnson, Human Resource Manager, 310 Four Corners Rd., Port Townsend, WA 98368, or email to [ajohnson@jeffpud.org](mailto:ajohnson@jeffpud.org).

### POSITION: **Application Specialist**

COMPANY: Lewis PUD (Chehalis, Wash.)

SALARY: \$67,338-\$101,008 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 20, 2015.

TO APPLY: For a complete list of job requirements, go to [www.lcpud.org](http://www.lcpud.org) and click on "Employment Opportunities" under Your PUD.

### POSITION: **Power Manager**

COMPANY: Klickitat PUD (Goldendale, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 22, 2015.

TO APPLY: Submit written application to Klickitat PUD, c/o Human Resources, 1313 S. Columbus, Goldendale, WA 98620, or by fax to (509) 773-7449.

### POSITION: **Journeyman Lineman**

COMPANY: Lakeview Light & Power (Lakewood, Wash.)

SALARY: \$43.76 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 24, 2015.

TO APPLY: Application, resumé, and cover letter can be submitted to Derise Warner at [dwarner@lakeviewlight.com](mailto:dwarner@lakeviewlight.com) or mailed to Lakeview Light & Power, 11509 Bridgeport Way S.W., Lakewood, WA 98499, Attn. Derise Warner.

### POSITION: **Systems Management Supervisor**

COMPANY: City of Tacoma (Tacoma, Wash.)

SALARY: \$103,584-\$132,808 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 25, 2015.

TO APPLY: Complete an online application at [www.cityoftacoma.org/jobs](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/jobs). Attach a resumé and cover letter that includes major responsibilities and accomplishments related to this position.

### POSITION: **Construction Permit Coordinator**

COMPANY: Okanogan County PUD (Okanogan, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 28, 2015.

TO APPLY: Go to [www.okanoganpud.org](http://www.okanoganpud.org) for job description and job requirements. Send resumé with salary requirements to Okanogan County PUD, HR Dept., P.O. Box 912, Okanogan, WA 98840-0912, fax to (509) 422-8416, or email [katiep@okpud.org](mailto:katiep@okpud.org).

### POSITION: **Network Analyst**

COMPANY: Okanogan County PUD (Okanogan, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 28, 2015.

TO APPLY: Go to [www.okanoganpud.org](http://www.okanoganpud.org) for job description and job requirements. Send resumé with salary requirements to Okanogan County PUD, HR Dept., P.O. Box 912, Okanogan, WA 98840-0912, fax to (509) 422-8416, or email [katiep@okpud.org](mailto:katiep@okpud.org).

**POSITION: Technical Field Trainer — Electric Operations #31508**  
**COMPANY:** Puget Sound Energy (Bellevue, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 29, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.pse.com/careers](http://www.pse.com/careers).

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**  
**COMPANY:** Midstate Electric Cooperative, Inc. (La Pine, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** \$42.53 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 30, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit resumé with cover letter to Human Resources, Midstate Electric Cooperative Inc., P.O. Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739, fax to (541) 536-1423, or email to [smiesen@mse.coop](mailto:smiesen@mse.coop). No phone calls will be accepted.

**POSITION: General Manager**  
**COMPANY:** Naknek Electric Association, Inc. (Naknek, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 31, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Job description, Board Policy 100-2, application form, and consent to background check form can be obtained from Tina Torrey at [tina@khe.com](mailto:tina@khe.com). Submit a cover letter expressing interest and describing qualifications, a detailed resumé, at least three professional references, completed application, and consent to background check to Tina Torrey, Kemppe, Huffman & Ellis, P.C., 255 E. Fireweed Lane, Ste. 200, Anchorage, AK 99503 or [tina@khe.com](mailto:tina@khe.com).

**POSITION: Senior Electrical/System Design Technician**  
**COMPANY:** Clatskanie PUD (Clatskanie, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 31, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Online application can be found at [www.clatskaniepud.com](http://www.clatskaniepud.com). Submit completed application, resumé, and cover letter to Human Resources, P.O. Box 216, Clatskanie, OR 97016, fax (503) 308-4884, or email [mkorsmo@clatskaniepud.com](mailto:mkorsmo@clatskaniepud.com).

**POSITION: Hydro Plant Mechanic**  
**COMPANY:** Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.)  
**SALARY:** \$70,693-\$95,041 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 31, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** For detailed recruitment information and to complete the online application, go to [www.pcwana.net](http://www.pcwana.net).

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**  
**COMPANY:** Milton-Freewater City Light & Power (Milton-Freewater, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** \$42.72 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** August 3, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit application and resumé to Human Resources Dept., City Hall, P.O. Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 or fax to (541) 938-8243. Applications available at [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.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](mailto:cutrell@plw.coop). Please mark subject line as Open Controller Position.

**POSITION: Executive Director**  
**COMPANY:** Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (Saipan, Northern Mariana Island, USA)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit a resumé, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUD employment application by mailing to Human Resource Office, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA, fax (670) 235-5131, or email to [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org).

**POSITION: Project Controls Specialist**  
**COMPANY:** Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org). Resumé and cover letter are required.

**POSITION: Instrumentation and Controls Engineer**  
**COMPANY:** Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (Anchorage, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit completed application and resumé to Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc., 4831 Eagle St., Anchorage, AK 99503-7497. Applications are available at [www.avec.org](http://www.avec.org).

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**  
**COMPANY:** Naknek Electric Association, Inc. (Naknek, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** IBEW 1547 contract rate.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Completed handwritten application forms may be submitted to NEA by fax (907) 246-6242, emailed to [dvukich@nea.coop](mailto:dvukich@nea.coop), mailed to P.O. Box 118, Naknek, AK 99633, or dropped off in person at the NEA office on School Rd., Naknek, Alaska. All inquiries should be directed to General Manager Donna Vukich at (907) 246-4261.

**POSITION: Field Services Representative**  
**COMPANY:** Copper Valley Electric Association (Glennallen, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** A complete application packet is available at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org). **NWPPA**

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