



Northwest Public Power Association

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NWPPA honors 2016 Annual Award winners

VANCOUVER, WA. – On May 18, at its 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Tulalip, Wash., Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) presented the following awards to individuals within the public power community.

#### ***Inaugural Homer T. Bone Award***

*This award honors a state or federal legislator (elected official) who has demonstrated sustained and remarkable work on behalf of public power.*

Congressman **Norm Dicks** has more than four decades of federal service both as a staffer to former U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson (D–Wash.) and as congressman representing Washington’s 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He is the longest-serving U.S. representative from Washington state in history. He has supported an “All-0H” approach to recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including Columbia River salmon stocks; worked with a successfully led Northwest congressional delegation in defeating multiple proposals to charge BPA’s customers market-based rates; and supported the congressional effort to support the Clinton Administration’s “No Surprises” policy for the ESA.

#### ***Paul J. Raver Community Service Award***

*This award honors an individual or company who has demonstrated superior leadership in the betterment of cities, states, or regions.*

NWPPA honored both **Steve Eldrige** of Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Hermiston, Ore.) and **Tim Dillon** of the City of Seldovia (Alaska).

After working 44 years at Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC), **Steve Eldrige** has retired. Eldrige, a native of Umatilla County, started working at UEC in 1972 after graduating from Oregon State University. After 18 years as UEC’s engineer, he was chosen as general manager.



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He led the cooperative through deregulation, the expansion of energy conservation, the sharp increases in wholesale power, and the creation of Eastern Oregon Telecom and Lightspeed Networks (LSN). Eldrige was instrumental in helping the community create a new municipal utility known as Hermiston Energy Services, the first consumer-owned utility created in Oregon in more than 50 years.

City of Seldovia City Manager **Tim Dillon** has been a strong advocate of Homer Electric Association (HEA) since coming on board in 2008. HEA serves the small community via an undersea cable and a stretch of overhead wire that traverses steep mountains and several water crossings. The remote location and extreme geographic conditions often result in power outages. During those times, Dillon has proven to be a valuable liaison between HEA and the Seldovia community. Dillon has also helped secure state funding to replace two standby emergency generators in Seldovia. With his help, HEA was successful in receiving a grant to start the process.

### ***NWPPA President's Award***

*This award honors outstanding service and work on behalf of the industry and the Association.*

NWPPA honored both **John Saven** of Northwest Requirements Utilities (Portland, Ore.) and **Arnie Winkler** of Northwest Public Power Association (Vancouver, Wash.).

In 1983, **John Saven** began his public power career with Seattle City Light; in 1992, Northwest Irrigation Utilities hired Saven as the executive director. Following the creation of the BPA Slice of the System product, Saven foresaw the need for an advocacy organization to represent the interests of BPA's full requirements customers, which led him to create Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU). In 2009, Saven founded and served as executive director of Northwest Energy Management Services, Northwest Intergovernmental Energy Supply, and Northwest Energy Supply Cooperative. Saven was also instrumental in forming Northwest RiverPartners and served as its board president from 2007 to 2010.

**Arnie Winkler** has been with NWPPA for 12 years and is retiring at the end of June. He has been the director of training and workforce development for all of those years. Before coming to NWPPA, his experience included a 23-year career with PacifiCorp, where he was an executive team builder and executive coach for the corporation. During his time at NWPPA he has grown the training offerings with his staff of three training managers to over 300 training events a year;



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not a small feat for a staff of four! He was also instrumental in starting NWPPA's successful Pathways to Leadership Program for senior leadership (now called Senior Leadership Skills Certificate Program).

### ***John M. George Public Service Award***

*This award honors policymaking officers of a member system that have demonstrated remarkable service to public power.*

**Ron Hatfield** was first elected as a commissioner for Public Utility District No. 2 of Pacific County (Wash.) in the fall of 1988. He was subsequently elected four additional times to represent the customers of District No. 3, and has now been in office for 28 years. When Hatfield came to the utility, it was in political turmoil, having had six managers or interim managers in a period of eight years. He helped to right the PUD, which has had just two general managers during his time as commissioner. Hatfield has represented his PUD on various boards, including serving as president of the NWPPA Board in 2007-2008.

### ***Distinguished Service Award***

*This award honors individuals who have served the interest of public power and NWPPA in an outstanding manner.*

NWPPA honored both **Mike Gianunzio** of SMUD (Sacramento, Calif.) and **John Prescott** of PNGC Power (Portland, Ore.).

**Mike Gianunzio** began his public power journey in 1982 in Colorado Springs as a partner in the law firm Anderson, Johnson & Gianunzio. There he represented and advised the Colorado Springs Utilities as their general counsel. In 1995, he left Colorado for the Pacific Northwest and accepted the position of general counsel with Snohomish County PUD. In that capacity he oversaw all of its legal matters, including relations with BPA. After 13 years at Snohomish County PUD, he became the chief legislative and regulatory officer for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). He will be retiring this June.

In October 2006, **John Prescott** was named president and chief executive officer for PNGC Power. Prior to joining PNGC Power, Prescott served as power supply and environmental affairs officer at Seattle City Light (Wash.); before that he spent 23 years with Idaho Power Company in various positions. During his 36 years of work in the northwest power industry, Prescott has



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served as chairman of the board of Northwest RiverPartners and Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee; co-chair of the Columbia River Treaty — Power Group; and a member of several other power-related committees.

### ***Life Membership Award***

*This award honors retiring or retired policymakers and managers from member utilities for work performed on behalf of public power.*

This year there were four recipients: **Mike Baker** of Modern Electric & Water Company (Spokane Valley, Wash.), **Steve Eldrige** of Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Hermiston, Ore.), **Lynn Heminger** of Douglas County PUD (East Wenatchee, Wash.), and **Robert Myhr** of Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.).

Congratulations to this year's award winners. Their work on behalf of the membership and the industry is greatly appreciated!

**About NWPPA:** NWPPA is an international association representing and serving nearly 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The Association also serves approximately 300 associate members across the U.S. and Canada who are allied with the electric utility industry. For more information, visit [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org), [www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc](https://www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc), or [www.Twitter.com/NWPPAssoc](https://www.Twitter.com/NWPPAssoc).