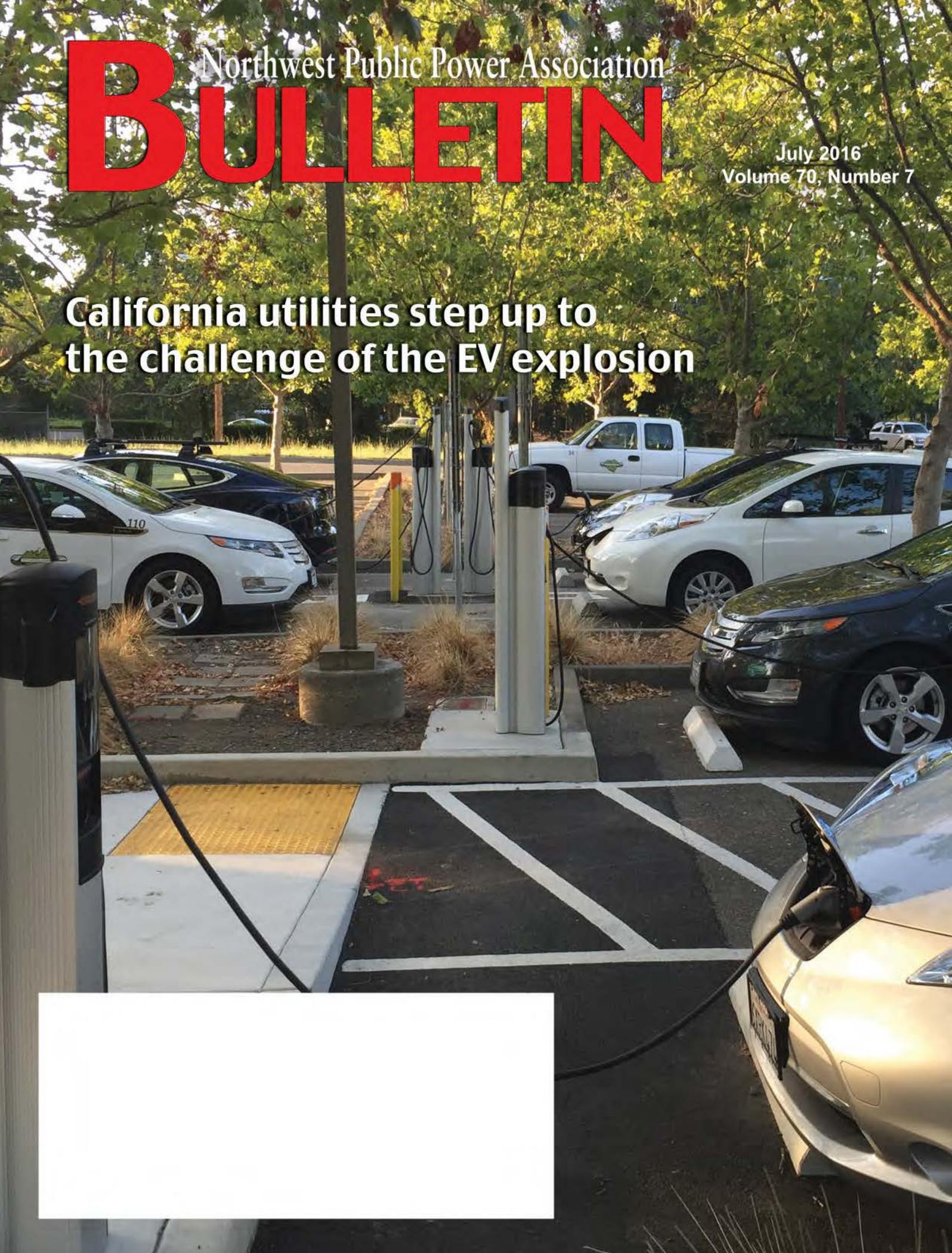


# Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**

July 2016  
Volume 70, Number 7

**California utilities step up to  
the challenge of the EV explosion**





**On the cover:** As electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular in California, publicly owned utilities are stepping up to the challenge. Smaller sized electric utilities, like Healdsburg (with its charging station shown on the cover), the Truckee Donner PUD, and the City of Alameda, are doing their part by being resourceful and designing programs that meet the specific needs of their communities. Photo provided by the City of Healdsburg.

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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**Coming in the next issue:  
Lessons learned from the  
Cascadia Rising 2016 project.**

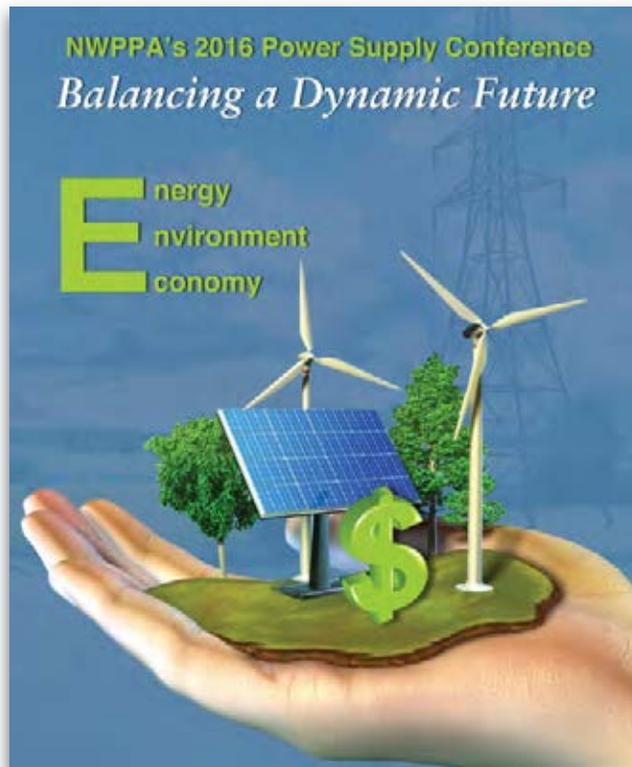
# Power supply experts should not miss our August conference!

Calling all power supply professionals, general managers, finance managers, and anyone else interested in power supply issues in the Pacific Northwest! Be sure to mark your calendars for August 1-2, which is when we will be holding the 2016 Power Supply Conference in Portland, Ore. We expect this conference to provide a platform for active discussion both during the sessions and also during networking receptions and breaks. Idaho Falls Power Assistant General Manager Bear Prairie will be your host and moderator for this year's conference. Along with Prairie, we have lined up an impressive list of speakers and panelists to share their overviews, insights, and perspectives on this crucial and ever-changing industry topic.

The keynote panel, which will consist of NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker, The Energy Authority Member Services Manager — Pacific Northwest Todd O'Keefe, Stanford University Senior Research Scholar Dian Grueneich, and Northwest Requirements Utilities CEO Roger Gray, will kick off the conference by discussing the changing Western power supply landscape.

To discuss the status of federal and state regulation and legislation, we have an amazing lineup of experts, including Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Executive Director Will Hart, OPUDA Lobbyist Danelle Romain from The Romain Group LLP, Redding Electric Utility Electric Program Supervisor Elizabeth Hadley, Flathead Electric Cooperative Regulatory Analyst Russ Schneider, Washington PUD Association Executive Director George Caan, and, Snohomish County PUD Director of Public Affairs Jessica Matlock.

For an overview of insights on how our industry is viewed by financial professionals, you'll hear from Bank of America Merrill Lynch Director Public Finance Bradford Walker; Piper Jaffrey Managing Director Ed Meyers; JP

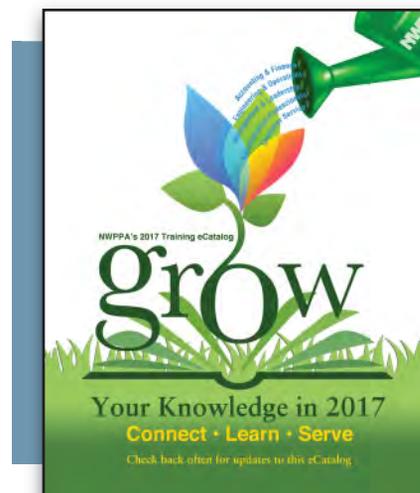


Morgan Executive Director, Head of Public Power Isaac Sine; and Wells Fargo Company Senior Vice President Karl Pfeil. Pfeil will also provide an overview of how credit rating agencies rate your utility.

Plus we have scheduled many more topics, such as the status of EIM and IRP; impacts of EIM on energy prices and transmission markets; demand response and the options and opportunities it brings utilities; renewable energy systems; flow battery technology; and lessons learned from 50 years of over-estimating future load growth.

With so many hot topics and fantastic speakers, if you are a power supply professional, you should not miss this conference. We would love to have you be part of the conversation with these power supply experts as they explore current and future challenges and

opportunities. For more information or to register, visit [nwppa.org](http://nwppa.org). NWPPA



**Coming soon!**

Watch for NWPPA's 2017 eCatalog to be released in early August!

# The NIC will return to Big Sky Country this fall

**A**fter a 10-year hiatus, the Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) will be returning to Big Sky Country this year, September 11-14, and the NIC Planning Committee is having a lot of fun with it already, having given this year's NIC the fun and casual theme of *The Stars Are out in Big Sky Country: A Campout in Missoula*. It is also a meaningful theme because we are all stars!

"You simply aren't going to want to miss this campout in Missoula and we don't want to miss any of you either," said 2016 NIC Chair Julee Cunningham from Snohomish PUD. "Our goal is to have the most attendees ever because the more we have there, the more connections made and the more we all get to learn from one another."

For the traditional Sunday night reception, the committee is hoping for good weather so attendees can enjoy a barbeque outdoors under the open skies. In addition to the great networking opportunity and delicious vittles, you will not want to miss the Sunday reception because that is where everyone will get to vote for the People's Choice award for photography. All of the photographs will be on display and it will be up to attendees to vote for their favorite photo from all of the entries. This new award and reception activity should be lots of fun for everyone!

Then on Monday morning it is down to business with the first of nine general sessions. This year the committee opted to load the conference with more general sessions that feature high-demand topics, such as change management, cybersecurity, indoor agriculture, and customer engagement. Some of the general and breakout session titles are "Social Media: Tips and Tricks to Make your Stars Shine Brighter on Social Media;" "Hackers, Malware, and Phishing, Oh My;" "Kilowatts for Cannabis;" "TED Talks Preparation — How to Be a Better Communicator;" "Learn the Latest on Managing the Biggest Stars in the Sky – Your Key Accounts;" and "An Energy Efficiency Debate: Are We Done Yet? Yes, No, or Maybe?"

Whether it's a speaker for a general session or for one of our many communication and energy efficiency breakout sessions, our presenters this year are also extra special. To give you a taste of who will be there this year, here are a just a few of our experts who will be presenting at the conference: Jim Dukart of *Transmission & Distribution World*, John Di Stasio of the Large Public Power Council, Chris Walsh of *Marijuana Business Daily*, Tom Stenzel of TEDxBozeman, Anne Harvey of Touchstone Energy, Bo Downen of the Public Power Council, and Megan Stratman of Northwest Requirements Utilities.



And as always, 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.

This year's banquet on Tuesday night will be the opposite of last year's black-tie affair — this year we are going with the ultra-casual camping theme, so feel free to wear your camping gear, fishing gear, waders, and hiking boots, but maybe not all at once. And of course, there will be prizes for the most memorable ensembles, along with the reception, dinner, presentation of the annual awards (including the new People's Choice award), camp songs, and s'mores.

The NIC always wraps up on Wednesday morning, but plan on staying for the full day so you can participate in the afternoon post-conference workshop, "Speaker Training Camp from a TEDx Trainer: How to Become a More Confident, Dynamic, and Riveting Speaker." Tom Stenzel will bring his experience coaching TEDx speakers to this workshop and help attendees understand that oftentimes the best talks are those where speakers share part of their own personal story or journey that makes the topic important to them.

Last, but certainly not least, be sure to download the first-ever app for the NIC. NWPPA has tested the Eventpedia-powered app at two earlier conferences this year and it has received rave reviews from attendees, and the committee is giddy about being able to use it at the 2016 NIC. Download the NWPPA app now to have early access to NIC maps, schedules, speakers, session descriptions, sponsors, and much more. To download the official NWPPA app, search NWPPA on the App Store or Google Play Store. The app is free to download.

Also, book your room at the DoubleTree Hotel Missoula/Edgewater in Montana as soon as possible, but no later than August 18, to secure the NWPPA discounted rate of \$143 per night. To book your room, call (406) 542-4611 or use the online code, NPA. For anyone flying in to the Missoula airport, a complimentary shuttle to and from the hotel is available.

To register for the conference, visit [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org). If you have any questions about this year's NIC, please direct them to Elaine Dixon at (360) 816-1445 or [elaine@nwppa.org](mailto:elaine@nwppa.org). **NWPPA**

Scan this QR code with your phone to also download the app.



# Make plans to attend the DER Conference in October

**S**trong drivers are pushing your utility towards distributed energy resources (DER). Even if your utility or state has significantly lower utility rates than states such as California, Hawaii, or New York, almost all utilities are drivers towards DER.

Additional DER drivers include customer desire for renewable options; the lowering cost of DER technology; the benefits of deferred or reduced utility capital and maintenance costs; state and federal government mandates; and regulations and incentives, to name a few.

NWPPA's Distributed Energy Resource Conference, scheduled for October 12-13, 2016, is designed to help utilities address these drivers and the question of "What is your utility going to do with DER?"

The association's 150+ member utilities, which include public power and investor-owned entities, are invited to look at distributed energy resources in an interactive and informative 1.5-day conference at the Northern Quest Resort in Spokane, Wash.

The objective of the conference is to present and discuss ideas, options, and resources to help you initiate or improve your utility's plans for DER through speaker and panel presentations and networking among the utilities.

Those who will benefit from the conference include engineering managers; system engineers, planners, and operators; transmission, distribution, and generation engineers; power planners; operations managers and superintendents;



The graphic features a central 3D illustration of a utility substation with a control room. It is surrounded by various energy sources: a wind turbine, solar panels, a residential house with solar panels, and a commercial building with solar panels. The text "NWPPA's Distributed Energy Resources Conference" is at the top, and "October 12-13, 2016 Northern Quest Resort in Spokane, Wash." is at the bottom.

general managers; and anyone that would benefit from the planned presentations and discussions on distributed energy resources.

For more information on the DER Conference, visit [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org). **NWPPA**

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# Congratulations to Arnie Winkler on his retirement



(L-R) Winkler and new NWPPA director of education and workforce development, Elaine Dixon.

**F**or 12 years, Arnie Winkler served NWPPA’s members as the director of education and workforce development. He retired on June 30, and in true Winkler form, will now get his daily dose of iron on the golf course.

“I may not have always been consistent, but I believe I have been persistent with my effort to give the members who we serve as much value as I can,” Winkler said. “And I know the staff will continue to do the same for decades to come.”

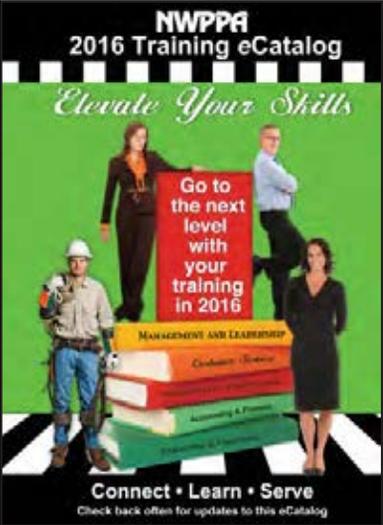
During his 12 years at NWPPA he has grown the training offerings with his staff of three training managers to some 300 training events a year! Not a small feat for a team of four. He was also instrumental in starting NWPPA’s successful Pathways to Leadership Program for senior leadership (now called Senior Leadership Skills Certificate Program).

“Arnie raised the bar on himself and his team year after year to the benefit of countless individuals he impacted throughout his career, myself included,” said NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker. “I worked with Arnie 32 years ago and it was a joy to work with him again over these last two years.”

Before coming to NWPPA, Winkler’s experience included a 23-year stint with PacifiCorp, where he was an executive team builder and executive coach for the corporation.

Winkler, who has always been known for his passion for public power, big smile, and can-do attitude, told members at the Annual Meeting in May that his goal at NWPPA was to do the “job with carefulness and respectfulness.” He did indeed and he will be greatly missed at NWPPA.

As of July 1, Elaine Dixon, who joined the staff in May, assumed the position of director of education and workforce development. Dixon comes to NWPPA with over 20 years of organizational learning and development experience, including time spent working for PacifiCorp/Scottish Power as the director of talent management. **NWPPA**



**NWPPA**  
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MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP  
OPERATIONS  
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Connect • Learn • Serve  
Check back often for updates to this eCatalog

**Mark your calendar and plan to attend these upcoming NWPPA 2016 conferences!**

<b>Power Supply Conference</b> August 1-2, 2016 Portland, Ore.	<b>Labor and Employee Relations Group Annual Meeting and Conference</b> October 12-14, 2016 Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
<b>Northwest Communications &amp; Energy Innovations Conference (NIC)</b> September 11-14, 2016 Missoula, Mont.	<b>3 Cs Annual Conference</b> October 26-28, 2016 Tulalip, Wash.
<b>New! Distributed Energy Resources Conference</b> October 12-13, 2016 Spokane, Wash.	<b>Women in Public Power</b> November 8-10, 2016 Portland, Ore.

# NWPPA welcomes its 2016 summer intern

by Ritaciah Cabrera

**S**ummer 2016 marks NWPPA's second summer, but third opportunity, working with a high school intern; this year's intern is Ritaciah Cabrera, a senior at Heritage High School.

"I try to take every possible opportunity given to me, especially the ones that help further my education, build professional character, and be a well-rounded person overall," said Cabrera. "That's why when I heard about the internship at NWPPA, I literally jumped on the offer. I knew that NWPPA would help me acquire office/hands-on work experience, knowledge of the power industry, and how the business world works. Altogether, that would help me open more doors for myself."



The NWPPA internship was again offered through the E.D.G.E. (Extended Development for Graduation and Employment) program at Heritage High School, which is located in Vancouver, Wash. This program helps students open doors for themselves, transition into the working world, and gain experiences. Though offered through E.D.G.E., the opportunity was primarily offered to the girls who took part in the B.O.W.S. (Brilliant Outstanding Women) program. The summer internship not only offers a young woman a chance at work experience, but also .25 high school credits if the required 90 hours are completed by the end of the summer.

Towards the end of the 2016 school year, three students were chosen to partake in the interview process; NWPPA chose Cabrera from among the applicants. She started with NWPPA on June 21 and will wrap up the internship in late August. Because the internship is a shorter, summer one, she will work primarily with the Communications Department. Her main duties will be assisting with the 2016 Excellence in Communication contest and the annual directory.

After graduating from Heritage, Cabrera plans to attend Portland State University and major in humanities.

"Even if I have something set out for me after high school, I know that plans can always change," she said. "I figured that the summer internship at NWPPA was something different so why not give it a go. I'm really glad that NWPPA chose to continue welcoming interns. This is one of the most important things I looked forward to this summer." **NWPPA**



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago — 1966

The Green Peter Dam was 80 percent complete and scheduled to be topped out in October (Ore.) ... Douglas County PUD reduced street lighting rates for 400-watt mercury vapor luminaries, under a 20-year contract, for quantities of more than 10 lights (Wash.) ... NWPPA reported the largest attendance — 421 people — ever at the annual Engineering & Operations Workshop, held in Moses Lake, Wash., that year ... Franklin PUD invited industry employees to the open house of their new \$500,000 building in Pasco (Wash.) ... Raymond F. Perry, formerly manager of Kittitas County PUD, was selected as the new manager for Midstate Electric Cooperative in La Pine, Ore.

### 25 years ago — 1991

Emerald PUD held its groundbreaking ceremonies for its Short Mountain Landfill Gas Project on July 11 (Ore.) ... The Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative announced that it completed two contracts to sell surplus power from its 50-megawatt share of the Boardman (Ore.) Plant; the contracts went to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Calif.) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)... Gary Splattstoesser was selected to fill the new position of supervisor — support services at Benton County PUD (Wash.) ... The Washington Public Power Supply System has proposed to BPA that a natural-gas-fired electric generator be placed at the Satsop power plant site in Western Washington.

### 5 years ago — 2011

Columbia REA Marketing and Member Services Manager Scott Peters received a Brand Champion Award from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives (Wash.) ... Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative CEO and General Manager Werner Buehler was appointed to the Cooperative Research Council ... Clark Public Utilities won the ENERGY STAR® Leadership in Housing Award for its sponsorship of energy-efficient home building in Clark County (Wash.) ... On July 3, phase 1 of Kodiak Electric Association's Pillar Mountain Wind Project turned two years old (Alaska) ... Kootenai Electric Cooperative hired Diane Griswold as its new human resources administrator (Idaho). **NWPPA**

# August, September, and October 2016

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

### POWER SUPPLY CONFERENCE

**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 3.

**AUGUST 1-2, 2016 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

### NUTS & BOLTS OF WORK ORDERS

**Who Should Attend:** Employees involved in any aspect of preparing and/or processing work orders for their electric utility, or employees outside the accounting area who want a better understanding of the work order process.

**AUGUST 3-4, 2016 — BILLINGS, MONT.**

### 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; accounting; as well as utility commissioners and board members.

**AUGUST 10-11, 2016 — GREAT FALLS, MONT.**

### LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4: HR BASICS & BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE

**Who Should Attend:** Supervisors and managers, and those employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.

**AUGUST 10-11, 2016 — LEAVENWORTH, WASH.**

### DIVERSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

**Who Should Attend:** Customer service professionals and any others who need to communicate effectively with customers and members.

**AUGUST 16-17, 2016 — GREAT FALLS, MONT.**

### NEW! LEADING MILLENNIALS, PREPARING FOR GENERATION Z

**Who Should Attend:** Any manager or supervisor who would like to develop practical skills for managing the newer generations entering the workforce.

**AUGUST 18, 2016 — GREAT FALLS, MONT.**

### NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE (NIC)

**Who Should Attend:** Marketing, public relations, communications, energy services, renewable energy, and key accounts employees, as well as any employee and board member with an interest in these areas. For more information, see page 4.

**SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2016 — MISSOULA, MONT.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 1 — ORGANIZATIONAL DYNAMICS, TEAMS, AND DIVERSITY

**Who Should Attend:** Administrative assistants, executive secretaries, and employees in administrative or service-oriented professional roles.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 — LEAVENWORTH, WASH.**

### 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 13, 2016 — BOISE, IDAHO**

### NIC POST-CONFERENCE CLASS: SPEAKER TRAINING CAMP FROM A TEDx TRAINER: HOW TO BECOME A MORE CONFIDENT, DYNAMIC, AND RIVETING SPEAKER

**Who Should Attend:** Marketers, communicators, public affairs employees, and other interested employees who make presentations and speeches to either an internal or external audience.

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 — MISSOULA, MONT.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 2 — PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**Who Should Attend:** Administrative assistants, executive secretaries, and employees in administrative or service-oriented professional roles.

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 — LEAVENWORTH, WASH.**

### 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; or 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 14, 2016 — BOISE, IDAHO**

### A GUIDE TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF RUS ACCOUNTING

**Who Should Attend:** Accounting staff from cooperatives and any other utility using RUS accounting methods.

**SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2016 — LEAVENWORTH, 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 14-15, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### THE CUSTOMER FOCUS

**Who Should Attend:** All employees who want to improve their internal and external customer relationships.

**SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2016 — SACRAMENTO, CALIF.**

### WRITING EFFECTIVE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who needs to write job descriptions for positions, including board members, utility managers, and human resources staff.

**SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2016 — SACRAMENTO, CALIF.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 3 — GETTING SUPPORT FOR IDEAS/PRESENTATION SKILLS

**Who Should Attend:** Administrative assistants, executive secretaries, and employees in administrative or service-oriented professional roles.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 — LEAVENWORTH, WASH.**

### SPCC PLANS FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

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

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 — BOISE, IDAHO**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 4 – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT/SELF APPRAISALS/GOAL SETTING**

Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive secretaries, and employees in administrative or service-oriented professional roles.

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 — LEAVENWORTH, WASH.**

#### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS #2: LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES**

Who Should Attend: Supervisors and managers, and employees who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future.

**SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

#### **LOAD FORECASTING**

Who Should Attend: Analysts/managers who are new to forecasting and statistic analysis, or anyone who needs a refresher course in evaluating load forecasts developed for their utility.

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

#### **DEMAND RESPONSE**

Who Should Attend: Analysts/managers who are new to demand response or interested in developing a demand response program for their utility.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 1 – CRITICAL THINKING AND DECISION MAKING SKILLS**

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.

**OCTOBER 4, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 2 – POSITIVE ASSERTIVENESS**

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.

**OCTOBER 5, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

#### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4, SERIES 4: LEAD YOUR ORGANIZATION—TOOLS**

Who Should Attend: Directors, managers, graduates of the Leadership Skills series, and newly appointed senior leaders.

**OCTOBER 5-6, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 3 – ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS; TIME & STRESS MANAGEMENT**

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.

**OCTOBER 6, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 4 – PERSONAL STRATEGIES FOR NAVIGATING CHANGE**

Who Should Attend: Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.

**OCTOBER 7, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

#### **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 11, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

#### **2600 – DIRECTOR DUTIES AND LIABILITIES – CREDENTIAL COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR (CCD) CERTIFICATE**

Who Should Attend: Directors, policy makers, and general managers.

**OCTOBER 12, 2016 — LAKEWOOD, WASH.**

#### **DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE CONFERENCE (DER)**

Who Should Attend: Utility personnel, including engineering managers; system engineers; system planners; transmission, distribution, and generation engineers; operations managers and superintendents; system operators; and general managers. For more information, see page 5.

**OCTOBER 12-13, 2016 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

#### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive assistants, and anyone new to project management.

**OCTOBER 12-13, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

#### **LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ANNUAL MEETING**

Who Should Attend: Members of the NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations 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 and are members of NWPPA.

**OCTOBER 12-14, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

#### **2620 – BOARD OPERATIONS AND PROCESS – CREDENTIAL COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR (CCD) CERTIFICATE**

Who Should Attend: Directors, policy makers, and general managers.

**OCTOBER 13, 2016 — LAKEWOOD, WASH.**

#### **UNBUNDLED COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN**

Who Should Attend: Accounting and finance staff, policy makers, or any utility employee with an interest in ratemaking and/or cost of service analysis.

**OCTOBER 18-19, 2016 — SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

#### **KEY TOPICS IN UTILITY ACCOUNTING**

Who Should Attend: Employees who are new to the utility accounting; employees in the industry who need to understand the special requirements of utility accounting; and employees who would like a more in-depth understanding of utility accounting systems.

**OCTOBER 19-20, 2016 — SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

#### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS #2: LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES**

Who Should Attend: Supervisors and managers, and employees who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future.

**OCTOBER 20-21, 2016 — SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

#### **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; accounting; as well as utility commissioners and board members.

**OCTOBER 25-27, 2016 — SEA-TAC, WASH.**

#### **3 Cs CONFERENCE: CREDIT/COLLECTIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Who Should Attend: Customer service, credit, and collections managers, supervisors, and employees.

**OCTOBER 26-28, 2016 — TULALIP, WASH.**

#### **STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM – NESC & UTILITY SPECIFICATIONS**

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

**OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2, 2016 — PORTLAND, ORE. NWPPA**

# Federal awards come with strings attached

**J**ust like there's no such thing as a free lunch, there's no such thing as free money, yet utilities sometimes make the mistake of thinking that's what a federal award offers.

Whether used to repair a utility's infrastructure or improve it, federal awards can be an appealing source of funding. Utilities investing in clean energy initiatives often have the option of funding new installations through an award from the Department of Energy or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And in a given five-year period, almost every utility uses federal money — typically from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) — at least once to make repairs following a natural disaster, whether it's a wildfire, earthquake, flood, or wind or ice storm. Given the availability of these awards, why wouldn't a utility take advantage of them? The answer is a matter of costs and benefits.

Guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget in December 2014 ushered in a new era in oversight concerning expenditures of federal funds. The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (generally referred to as the Uniform Guidance) makes it more important than ever that utilities using federal money fully understand the rules surrounding eligible expenditures, document their costs appropriately, and implement processes and controls that prevent inappropriate spending.

When accepting money from a federal source, both compliance and noncompliance come with costs — so weigh the cost-benefit ratio of accepting those funds accordingly.

### Costs of noncompliance

While the responsibilities that come with a federal award may seem preferable to depleting your organization's cash reserves or assuming debt by issuing bonds, the penalties for noncompliance with a federal award's terms and conditions can be far more significant.

Utilities that accept awards should be prepared for an audit by the awarding agency of how those funds are spent — either during the course of a financed project or upon its completion. In many cases, if instances of noncompliance are identified during the audit, or if there isn't enough documentation to support that the funds were used appropriately, utilities are required to reimburse the federal agency for questioned costs; could be assessed fees and penalties; and could be prohibited from receiving future awards from that granting agency.

### Costs of compliance

Avoiding being caught in a noncompliance situation comes with internal and external costs of its own. Though not all utilities require a full-time award adminis-

*When accepting money from a federal source, both compliance and noncompliance come with costs — so weigh the cost-benefit ratio of accepting those funds accordingly.*

trator, it's important that somebody at the organization has the skills, knowledge, and experience to:

- Read and understand the terms of any given award agreement
- Educate and advise staff on ineligible and eligible expenditures
- Track expenses made using federal money
- Report on project progress as required by the awarding agency

Additional layers of internal control (such as personnel, system, and other requirements) may be needed to ensure award spending is well documented, monitored, and reported on according to federal requirements. As the costs associated with administering a utility's awards increases, they may include additional personnel, such as a contract attorney who can review award and contract documents; project managers; and accounting professionals to track expenses and generate monthly or quarterly reports. Typically, a utility's project management and tracking systems capture costs, but existing systems may need to be modified or reconfigured to track award-eligible expenses or produce reports on the project itself. Upgrading software systems would be another expense to consider before you accept an award.

Generally, when annual federal expenditures exceed \$750,000, the uniform guidance requires that a single audit be performed by an independent auditor; the scope of these audits range widely depending on the relevant compliance requirements and complexity of the award. To a smaller utility, such costs can also be prohibitive, because they may not be reimbursable under the award.

### Common pitfalls for grant awardees

A lack of familiarity with relevant regulatory guidance is the first pitfall. It's not only what utilities spend federal money on that matters, but also whom they spend it with.

For example, the uniform guidance sets out specific processes award recipients must follow (and document) for five separate types of procurement, from micropurchases (under \$3,500) through large-scale projects that require bids from multiple sources.

Further, utilities that use federal award money to pay a subrecipient are considered pass-through entities, which makes them responsible for monitoring their subrecipients' use of those funds. It's also the utility's responsibility to make sure the subrecipient isn't debarred from performing federal work in the first place. Before granting any work involving federal funds to a subrecipient, search for the prospective subrecipient by name or taxpayer identification number on the System for Award Management, or SAM.

One particularly common pitfall, especially surrounding FEMA awards, lies in the distinction between repairing existing infrastructure and enhancing it. Say, for example, that a utility's poles and lines are destroyed by a wildfire. FEMA awards the entity a grant to repair the lines damaged by the wildfire, but because the lines are older and in need of an upgrade anyway, the utility opts to replace them not with the existing-quality lines but with newer, larger-capacity lines. The FEMA grant likely covers the cost only to repair the existing lines, not upgrade them. These costs can be difficult to separate and track, and the utility could be required to pay back the ineligible portion of the expense upon audit.

### Know your responsibilities before you accept

Award preparedness and disaster preparedness are similar in that waiting until an emergency occurs is too late to acquaint yourself with the required procedures.

As a utility, you're well aware of the pressure you face when you're unable to deliver services to your customers. Spending time now to understand the responsibilities that come with accepting a federal award can mean you're informed and ready to accept funds when you need them — and when your customers are anxiously waiting for service.

To learn more about the uniform guidance, including your responsibilities as a recipient of federal funds or as a pass-through entity for federal funds, visit [www.mossadams.com/uniformguidance](http://www.mossadams.com/uniformguidance). **NWPPA**

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# Grant County works with POWER Engineers to improve performance of Wanapum generation



*Wanapum Dam's SCADA systems give operators better control over power generation equipment. Photo provided by Grant County PUD.*

**N**ew control, protection, and communication systems at Wanapum Dam are giving operators better visibility of the performance of the power generation system, improving safety, dependability, and efficiency.

The Grant County Public Utility District has been working with POWER Engineers Incorporated to replace 50-year-old electromechanical relays with modern microprocessor relays, as well as installing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems.

The new relay and SCADA systems at Wanapum Dam support the utility district's upgrading of the power generation equipment. The district is upgrading its 10 109-MVA hydroelectric generators to 129 MVA, and replacing other equipment that had neared the end of its useful life. Work on the final generator is expected to be completed in 2018. The district has installed 10 new turbines to replace those that had been in operation since the dam went online in 1963.

POWER developed a master plan for the PUD that called for the relay settings to be installed as a system, and also for the SCADA to be installed as a system on each of the 10 units. With the master plan in place, the implementation and testing could take place in stages. Grant County PUD could turn on each project as it went, dramatically reducing the time and cost of commissioning.

One key to the success of the project was to create a

template of the equipment data points from where the relay devices would pull information; the utility's staff could then review the templates to make sure they were getting the information they wanted.

By consolidating the templates into a list that included sequential events recorder (SER) data, the system gives the dam's operators the unique ability to see the timing of events. The master plan proved essential to organizing this high level of data. Careful planning and designing of the entire relay and SCADA systems to the PUD's standards helped make the upgrades more cost effective as well as easier to maintain.

Protective relays help safeguard the dam's electrical systems and equipment from serious damage, if a fault occurs. They also provide event reporting, including waveform capture and data on the sequence of events. Microprocessor relays help do this by providing operators much more information than the old electromechanical relays did. The new relays monitor more than 100 unique data points, where the old devices tracked about four. For example, the new relays provide resistance temperature data from 24 different alarm points on the three-story generators.

Using such data from stators, rotors, and other individual equipment, operators can run the generators much more effectively. They gain additional confidence in the accuracy of their knowledge of how the system is operating.

Redundancy in the new relays, which the old system didn't have, helps increase the reliability of the power system.

SCADA systems collect real-time data from the relays and other devices about the status of the power generation system. This makes it easier for the PUD's operators to see what is happening and in what order.

The dam's SCADA systems do more than just gather data — they give operators better control over power generation equipment. Many of the SCADA fault responses occur automatically and rapidly; however, SCADA systems allow the dam's operators to quickly review any event and adjust the system to avoid or reduce potential harmful effects of a fault. In the past, the dam's operators would have needed to manually combine readings pulled from a number of devices at individual points; SCADA systems consolidate all of the operating data in a master station that engineers like to call the human-machine interface, or HMI.

Think of the HMI as the instrument panel in your car. Instead of having to get under the hood to check for speed, engine condition, temperature, or battery status, you can just scan the display panel. The HMI performs the same function for the dam's operations. It improves operators' ability to view alarms and status information from the

entire system and not just one device at a time. Additionally, the HMI remotely collects all of the relay event and SER data, making it easy to analyze and view the system in one easy-to-access location.

Because these new systems archive information, the dam's operators are able to forecast how the dam will perform under certain conditions. For example, by comparing operations during low-water years, the operators can more accurately predict generation during a similar water year.

Thorough planning meant that the Wanapum Dam operations could make the best use of all the features found in today's protection and control devices. Studying fault conditions and then thoughtfully applying and coordinating protective relays and their elements helps isolate faults and eliminate unnecessary trips.

Automation, data collection, and communication systems provide seamless protection, making the Wanapum Dam generation operations safer while also providing a highly reliable power system. **NWPPA**

*Mark Nelson and Scott Ross are both POWER project engineers. They may be contacted at [mark.nelson@powereng.com](mailto:mark.nelson@powereng.com) and [scott.ross@powereng.com](mailto:scott.ross@powereng.com) respectively.*



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by Neil Neroutsos

# Eyes on the environment

## SnoPUD sustainability efforts central to business practices



*Snohomish PUD buildings are designed with a range of energy-efficiency measures, drought-tolerant gardens, and other sustainable business practices. Photo provided by Snohomish PUD.*

**S**nohomish County PUD has long embraced energy efficiency to help its customers save on bills. The utility launched aggressive home weatherization programs more than 35 years ago, and since then it's promoted everything from efficient appliances to ductless heat pumps to efficient lighting. This spring, the utility sold its 10-millionth efficient light bulb through a local network of retailers. Collectively, its efficiency programs have saved enough energy to serve more than 75,000 homes annually.

But that's just the start of its sustainability efforts.

"Our environmental ethic is ingrained in our business practices," said PUD CEO and General Manager Craig Collar. "It drives decisions, for example, about how we design and operate our facilities, management of our vehicle fleet, and the selection process for the products we use."

As a result, the utility has numerous programs in place to reduce waste, prevent pollution, and increase efficiency in its operations.

### **Better building efficiency**

The PUD's new buildings target to exceed codes for energy efficiency by up to 10 percent. The PUD's Energy Control & Data Center, one of its newer buildings, has achieved LEED Gold Status for its green building construction and operations. The building was designed with multiple efficiency measures, including lighting, heating and cooling, and a geothermal heat pump. While the new data center was needed for increased server space and improved redundancy, the PUD used the opportunity to significantly improve power usage efficiency in both the server equip-

ment and in the supporting HVAC system. The utility had previously relied on a 1990s vintage data center. Outside the building, the walkways are bordered with drought-tolerant plantings to minimize water use and landscape maintenance.

At other PUD sites, the utility has incorporated more LED lighting and lighting controls into its administrative areas and public meeting spaces. In addition, at facilities that have employees with varying work schedules, such as administrative workers and line crews, the PUD has zoned spaces so that it's only using energy for heating, cooling, and lighting areas at the times of day when it's needed.

"As a public agency, we don't always need to achieve a return on investment in three or four years for our projects," said PUD Manager of Facilities Engineering Doug Wilson. "We evaluate not only the initial costs of a project, but also the costs to operate and maintain the technology throughout its entire life. Our facilities are going to be around for a long time."

In evaluating projects, the PUD uses an Energy Life Cycle Cost Analysis tool to measure operating costs, maintenance costs, environmental benefits, and other measures, typically over a 30-year period.

### **Smarter use of resources**

The PUD's energy-efficiency endeavors extend beyond reducing electricity use. A major organizational behavior change program to cut the time that utility vehicles idle at worksites has proven successful — reducing idling time by nearly 30 percent and saving 7,700 gallons of fuel in the first year. As part of the effort, the PUD also has equipped

several trucks with a separate battery — instead of idling — to run traffic warning lights, heat vehicles, and light work-sites at night.

In addition, many of its vehicles are now fueled with higher concentrations of biodiesel — a blend of traditional diesel and an alternative non-petroleum fuel made from tallow (animal by-products), feed stocks, and cooking oil. The move is eliminating hundreds of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

The PUD's product review process considers the impacts of products throughout their lifecycles so that the utility can make the most prudent purchase decisions. The utility, for example, now uses a less toxic antifreeze for vehicles and more green cleaning products for its custodial staff. It also has turned to a less toxic treatment for treating wood poles.

To ensure safe disposal of materials, each year the PUD recycles thousands of pounds of batteries, circuit boards, computer monitors, and electronics that have reached the end of their useful lives. Last year, it recycled 2,100 obsolete or damaged transformers, and 19,000 gallons of used transformer oil.

At Snohomish PUD, it's clear: using natural resources more efficiently and wisely makes both good environmental and economic sense. **NWPPA**

*Neil Neroutsos is spokesperson/public relations liaison for Snohomish County Public Utility District in Everett, Wash. He can be reached at NSNeroutsos@SNOPUD.com.*

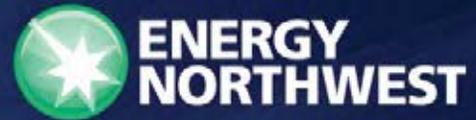
## SnoPUD climate change policy

**T**he Snohomish PUD Board of Commissioners adopted a climate change policy in 2007. One of the key components calls for meeting customer growth, first and foremost, through energy conservation, followed by a diverse mix of renewable energy resources. The policy also emphasizes non-generation efficiencies, such as those it has implemented for its facilities, vehicle fleet, and daily operations. **NWPPA**



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by Steve Heist

## Trenching hazards cannot be taken lightly so always proceed with caution

Last January, a worker in Seattle died when the partially shored trench he was working in collapsed. He was buried in about seven feet of material and, although emergency crews arrived quickly, the operation was considered a recovery. This was the first trench-related fatality in Washington since 2008, but nationally they are much more common. It's important to review and understand the hazards associated with trenching, especially because many trenching or excavation accidents are related to utility work.

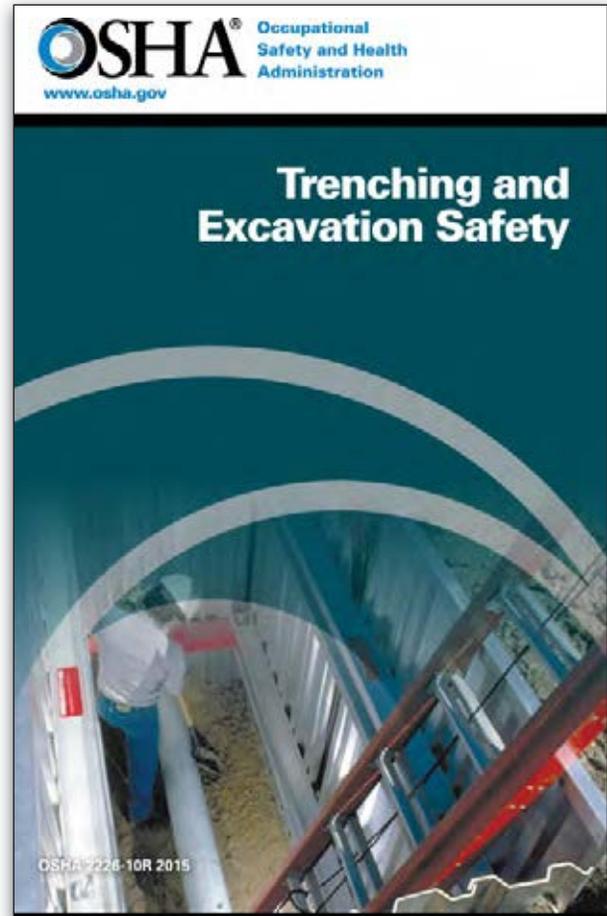
According to the CDC and Bureau of Labor Statistics, trenching and excavation cave-ins cause an average of 35 fatalities per year. The CDC also found that construction of "water, sewer, pipeline, and communications and power-line" facilities were involved in most of these incidents and that trenches can be dangerous even at deceptively shallow depths, with 64 percent of fatalities occurring in trenches less than 10 feet deep.

This is one reason that requirements for trenching protection start at depths of just four feet in Washington state, and five feet for Oregon and other states under federal OSHA. In any state, and for obvious reasons, protection can be required even in shallower trenches if the excavation shows signs of distress.

Specialized shoring beyond what is normally used may also be necessary depending on the hazards. While the details of the Seattle accident are still being investigated, Seattle was in the midst of its wettest winter on record when the incident occurred. A competent person must always assess the safety of the work area before workers enter the trench.

There are four key rules to keep in mind when working in or around an excavation or trench:

1. **Locates.** Just as you advise your customers to call before they dig, ensure that your utility's facilities, plus those of other utilities, have been located and marked before beginning a job.
2. **Competent person.** As already mentioned, you need to have a competent person — knowledgeable in the standard, systems, and soils — present to determine if the work area is safe for workers to enter. This must occur at the start of each shift.
3. **Access.** Make sure you have adequate access in and out of the excavation/trench. Access points are typically required every 50 feet and ladders, if used, must extend three feet above the surface or landing.
4. **Soil conditions.** Know what the soil conditions are and what the criteria is for requiring workers to leave the excavation due to hazardous conditions.



For more information, you can find the "OSHA Trenching and Excavation Safety" brochure at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha2226.pdf>.

If trenching near existing buildings, overhead facilities, or equipment, remember that these structures also need to be supported and protected in case of instability. Also, be mindful that heavy equipment is always kept away from trench edges. Keep surcharge loads — loads on the surface that put pressure on the edges of the excavation — at least two feet (0.6 meters) from trench edges.

Employees and members of the public must be kept away from the area by barricades or other protective measures to keep unauthorized persons away. Only those directly involved in the project process should be in or near the trench. Pay special attention to ensure that remote excavations are covered at all times to prevent anyone from accidentally walking into the excavation.

*There is little tolerance for employers violating the safety and health requirements for those in a trench, both in Washington and other states. Washington inspectors have visited utility trenching sites recently and are assigning fines that were just increased in 2015 for serious and repeat violations.*

We've already highlighted that wet soil can be a hazard, but so can standing water. Never work in an excavation where there is water accumulating! All water should be removed before anyone enters and trenches should be inspected following a rainstorm. Trenches should also be tested for low oxygen, hazardous fumes, and toxic gases. Finally, workers should not be in a trench or excavation under raised loads.

Michael Silverstein, retired assistant director at the Washington Department of Labor & Industries, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, stated that over 2,000

years ago, the Phoenicians understood the importance of providing protective systems in an excavation as they were losing their work force to unsafe excavations. He stated that in today's world of technology, there is no reason why a worker should ever be exposed to an unprotected excavation or trench.

There is little tolerance for employers violating the safety and health requirements for those in a trench, both in Washington and other states. Washington inspectors have visited utility trenching sites recently and are assigning fines that were just increased in 2015 for serious and repeat violations.

Please remember, you deserve a safe work place and someone is expecting you to come home. There is no reason why anyone should have to lose their life in an unprotected excavation. **NWPPA**

*Steve Heist is safety director at Approach Management Services, which provides safety and workers' compensation claims services to more than 2,500 Washington state employers. Prior to joining Approach, Heist worked at Washington L&I and GLY Construction in Seattle. He can be reached at (206) 812-3830 or [steve.heist@approachms.com](mailto:steve.heist@approachms.com).*



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## Okanogan awards three service awards



**O**n May 23, during the regular Okanogan County PUD (Wash.) Board of Commissioners meeting, General Manager **John Grubich** awarded **Erik Brathen** (top left photo) a service award for 10 years of service to the utility. Brathen started at Okanogan in May 2006 as a distribution engineer; he now holds the position of senior distribution engineer and specializes in GIS mapping.



The next month, at the June 13 board of commissioners meeting, Grubich presented two more service awards; **Brian Chamberlin** (top right photo) and **Randy Spaet** (bottom right photo) were each honored for 10 years of service to the utility.

Chamberlin was hired at the Okanogan PUD as a relief meter clerk in June 2006. After several job advancements, he became a lineman apprentice and passed his journeyman lineman exam in May 2011. Chamberlin is currently a journeyman lineman for the Okanogan 300 crew.

Spaet started with the District on June 26, 2006, as a groundman. In January 2007, he was awarded the position of warehouseman, the position he currently holds. **NWPPA**

## Two Blachly-Lane directors retain positions

**A**t Blachly-Lane Electric's (Junction City, Ore.) Annual Membership Meeting on April 23, **Ernie Jacksch** and **Cheryl Haskell** retained their seats on the Blachly-Lane Electric Board of Directors for three more years.

Jacksch has served on Blachly-Lane Electric's board of directors since 2002 for District #1. He is retired from Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op after 34 years of service. He has been chairman and a school board member of Triangle Lake Schools and served on the budget committee. He now is the assistant high school boys' basketball coach and high

school JV coach, and is a supporter of school and community functions. Jacksch is a credentialed cooperative director (CCD) through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and has earned the gold-level Board Leadership credential.

Haskell was elected to serve her third term for District #3. She is retired from the Monroe School District and holds a degree in animal science. She served as an Oregon Whale Watch volunteer for 16 years and is a founding member of the American Cetacean Society Oregon Chapter. Haskell is also a CCD through NRECA and is pursuing additional Board Leadership training. **NWPPA**

## Chelan to modernize original Rock Island units

**O**n June 20, Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioners decided to invest about \$60 million to modernize the four original generating units at Rock Island Dam. The decision came after the board reviewed the results of intensive staff analysis and concluded the project meets the strategic objective of investing in long-term assets that provide value to customer-owners.

The benefits would include reliable operation of the units for another 50 years; an expected 12-percent rate of return; and more flexibility in hydro operations, said **Brett Bickford**, Engineering and Project Management director. The project also has environmental and fish protection benefits and aligns with PUD values of safety, stewardship, trustworthiness, and operational excellence, Bickford said.

PUD staff studied the impacts of retiring the units, moving them to inactive status, and rehabilitating them. Analysis shows returning the units to service provides clear benefits for customers. The other alternatives create costs and removed all possible future revenue from power generation.

**Dan Garrison**, Hydro Operations director, said staff's recommendation includes schedule changes for ongoing modernizing of four other units in Powerhouse 1. It also calls for hiring at least 10 people for the workload at Rock Island and Rocky Reach over the next several years. Six of these positions will provide succession planning for projected retirements in the future.

Next steps for the board are action in September to advertise for bids and a request to award the contract in January 2017. **NWPPA**

## Grays Harbor teams up for comm site

**W**hy build two sites when one will do? A new communications site on Saddle Mountain in West Grays Harbor County (Wash.) will provide joint communications facilities for Grays Harbor County E911

and Grays Harbor PUD communications. As a result, both Grays Harbor County and the PUD will see improved communications coverage to both the north and south beaches.

Both groups were in the process of prepping for a new communications site when it was discovered that one site would fit the needs of both. As part of the joint effort, the county provided the construction work on the tower site while the PUD provided the building and communications infrastructure, cutting the costs for each entity nearly in half. **NWPPA**

## Umatilla promotes Joshua Lankford

**A**s the new manager of engineering for Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Ore.), **Joshua Lankford** will oversee a staff of 10 that provides engineering and related services for UEC's 2,300-mile transmission and distribution system. Lankford succeeds **Robert Echenrode**, who began his new duties as UEC's general manager and CEO in March 2016.



*Joshua Lankford*

Lankford joined UEC as a distribution engineer in 2009. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Portland State University, and a master's of engineering degree in transmission and distribution from Gonzaga University. In May 2016, he completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Management Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin. He is a registered professional engineer in Oregon.

The utility is expanding and rebuilding its system as power sales have increased 70 percent in the last five years. UEC completed its 30<sup>th</sup> substation, located at the Port of Morrow, in 2015. Planning for its 31<sup>st</sup> substation, in east Hermiston, is under way. **NWPPA**

## Two Salem directors receive gold-level certification

**C**ongratulations to Salem Electric (Ore.) board members **Alicia Bonesteele** and **Joe Van Meter** for recently achieving their gold-level certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Training Program. The NRECA Gold-Level Certificate can only be achieved after directors have completed and received both the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates.

Salem Electric directors understand that training is an important piece of what helps them acquire and develop the skills needed in foundational governance knowledge, prepares them to be effective leaders, and keeps them informed on issues facing the electric utility industry. **NWPPA**

## Nieuwenhuis celebrates 25 years at Douglas PUD

**D**ouglas County PUD Commissioners **Jim Davis**, **Molly Simpson**, and **Ron Skagen** awarded Project Mechanical Foreman **Steve Nieuwenhuis** with his 25-year service award during the June 6 commission



*(L-R) Jim Davis, Steve Nieuwenhuis, and Molly Simpson. Photo provided by Douglas PUD.*

meeting held at the District's East Wenatchee, Wash., office. Commissioner Davis thanked Nieuwenhuis on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service. Nieuwenhuis thanked the commission and said, "It feels like a happy family here." **NWPPA**

## Ravalli celebrates Valley Solar project



Flanked by Bitterroot Chamber members, **Loren Stormo**, the first REC member to participate in the Valley Solar program, thanks Gov. **Steve Bullock** for cutting the ribbon. **Dennis Schneider**, the first REC Board member to purchase output in the program, holds the other side of the banner. Photo provided by Ravalli Electric Cooperative.

**O**n May 26, more than 70 members, local dignitaries, Bitterroot Chamber representatives, and Ravalli Electric Cooperative (Corvallis, Mont.) staff came together with special guest, Governor **Steve Bullock**, to celebrate the completion of Valley Solar.

Each of the two constructed 88-panel solar arrays represents a phase in the community solar project. Phase 1 solar output sold out in December 2015 with enough additional interest to warrant moving forward with Phase 2 in February 2016. As of June 9, less than one quarter of Phase 2 (19 panels) remains available for purchase.

*Continued on page 20*

Since the system went live on April 4, it has generated nearly 15,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity (85 kilowatt-hours per panel), which is enough to power an average home for an entire year. **NWPPA**

### SMUD helps low-income customers with summer energy usage

**W**ith the recent return of hot weather, many Sacramento, Calif., residents are increasing their energy use. This can present a financial challenge for some, and that's why SMUD offers eligible low-income customers a discount of up to 44 percent on their electricity use through the Energy Assistance Program Rate (EAPR). EAPR customers also receive a \$10.50 discount on the \$18 monthly system infrastructure fixed charge.

Households are eligible for the discounted rate if their income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level. According to current guidelines, a family of four can earn up to \$48,600 a year and be eligible for EAPR.

EAPR customers may also participate in the SMUD Residential Weatherization program. Qualified customers can, at no cost to them, have their homes weatherized to improve energy efficiency.

Customers in households where a full-time resident has a medical condition that requires the use of certain energy-intensive medical equipment may also be eligible for the Medical Equipment Discount (MED) rate.

There are also a variety of low- and no-cost ways customers can reduce their energy use during hot summers. One of the easiest options is to take advantage of SMUD's Sacramento Shade program. Any customer in SMUD's service area can receive up to 10 free trees, with ties and stakes, as well as advice on tree placement and care. Properly placed trees can reduce home cooling costs up to 40 percent after five years of growth. **NWPPA**

### SVP recognized as a Green Energy Leader

**S**ilicon Valley Power's (Santa Clara, Calif.) green power program, which allows customers to purchase up to 100 percent of their power from renewable carbon-free resources, has been named as one of the Top 10 performing green power programs in the nation. The Santa Clara Green Power program was recognized by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. Each year, NREL uses information provided by utilities across the nation to rank them in a variety of categories.

"Recognition as an industry leader by NREL for the tenth year in a row is quite an acknowledgement of SVP and our program," said Larry Owens, manager of Customer Services at SVP.

SVP was ranked in three areas. With 7.94 percent of its customers participating in Santa Clara Green Power, SVP is now ranked sixth nationally for Customer Participation Rate. SVP earned a second Top 10 award in the Green Power Sales as a Percentage of Total Electricity Sales, where it ranked third in the U.S. The City of Santa Clara's municipal electric utility delivers over 50 percent of its power from carbon-free sources including wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and landfill gas.

Finally, selling a total of 179,621 megawatt-hours of electricity in Santa Clara landed SVP at number 10 in the nation in Top Green Power Sales, a category that includes electric utilities many times larger than SVP.

Silicon Valley Power manages the Santa Clara Green Power program in partnership with 3Degrees, the eight-time winner of the NREL Green Power Supplier of the Year Award. **NWPPA**

### EWEB's drinking water reported as clean

**T**he Eugene Water & Electric Board's (Ore.) annual water quality report is complete and the news is once again good: Eugene's drinking water remains among the best in the nation and meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards. To view the report, go to [eweb.org/ccr](http://eweb.org/ccr).

Of particular interest in this year's report, given water quality issues in Flint, Mich., and other cities, is whether lead was detected.

Flint's problems began after city officials switched water supplies in an effort to save money. In doing so, officials decided against treating the water to reduce its natural corrosivity. Because Flint did not manage its water chemistry, the water caused lead to leach from old service lines and household plumbing. That lead-tainted water then flowed out of household taps.

In contrast, there are no known lead service lines in EWEB's distribution system. Furthermore, EWEB, like thousands of other water utilities in the country, treats its water in order to raise the pH and reduce the corrosivity of water before it enters the distribution system. Even so, EWEB tests drinking water for lead and copper. Those tests consistently meet all EPA requirements.

That said, older household plumbing can still be a concern because lead solder was commonly used in homes built or plumbed with copper pipes before 1985. Lead also can be found in brass plumbing fixtures and components. **NWPPA**

### Middle Fork Project service agreement reached

**A**t its June 16 meeting, the Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.) Board of Directors authorized the execution of an agreement with the

Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) to provide dispatch and control room services for PCWA's Middle Fork Project (MFP). The agreement takes effect in 2018, when PCWA's existing power sales contract with Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) terminates.

In order to provide their services, NCPA will be designated as PCWA's scheduling agent with the California ISO. NCPA will provide around-the-clock monitoring and response operations, while PCWA's Energy Marketing staff will continue to optimize and schedule power generation. The new contract represents a savings of approximately \$1 million annually for the Middle Fork Project Joint Powers Authority.

"PCWA and Placer County staff have been actively exploring dispatch center options for the MFP since 2014," General Manager **Einar Maisch** said. "NCPA's market knowledge and hydroelectric generation experience will provide a strategic benefit to the MFP." **NWPPA**

## NRECA names Matheson as new CEO

**T**he National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) announced on June 13 that former U.S. Rep.

**Jim Matheson** has been selected to serve as NRECA's 6<sup>th</sup> chief executive officer. Matheson will succeed **Jo Ann Emerson**, who was stricken by a severe illness in August of last year. He will join the association and assume his duties as CEO in July.

"On behalf of our board of directors, we are extremely excited to have Jim join NRECA," said NRECA President **Mel Coleman**.

Matheson currently serves as principal, public policy practice for Squire Patton Boggs, a large well-respected international law firm based in Washington, D.C. During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 2001 to 2015, he served as a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. The respect Matheson has on both sides of the aisle, and his ability to bridge political and policy divides to find common ground, will serve NRECA and all member cooperatives very well.

In addition to his extensive background in Congress and public policy, Matheson worked in the energy industry for several years. He was a project development manager in the independent power industry; he also worked at two consulting companies, including his own firm, providing services to large energy consumers.

Matheson was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. He attended public schools in Salt Lake City, received a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University, and an MBA in finance and accounting from UCLA. **NWPPA**

## We remember

**J**ay Frederick Nelson, a former Vigilante Electric Cooperative Board director, passed away on June 1, 2016, at his home in Jackson, Mont., surrounded by his loving family. He was 92 years old.

Nelson was born on July 3, 1923, in Butte, Mont., to Fred and Margaret (Woolaghan) Nelson of the Big Hole Valley. He spent all his life in his beloved Big Hole Valley. In 1941, he married Jean Renz of Dillon and they had six children. They were married for 56 years when she passed away.

Nelson served on the Jackson School Board, and taught Hunter's Safety to the Valley children for many years. He was on the Vigilante Electric Board for 41 years; helped found the Western Montana G&T in 1980; served as chairman of the local sewer and water board; was a charter member of the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department; and served 56 years as commander of the Bill Carroll VFW Post 9040. For over 20 years he took his Beaverslide and two pole derrick to Bannack to demonstrate how they worked. He loved letting the children do the demonstrating.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; brothers, Tom and Bill; and grandson, Jordan Rangitsch. He is survived by all six of his children; 13 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren. **NWPPA**



**M**ontana's **Bruce Measure**, a former NWPPA Board trustee, Kalispell lawyer, state legislator, and longtime leader on local and regional energy policy, died on June 6 following a battle with cancer. He was 64 years old.

He earned his undergraduate political science degree and his law degree from the University of Montana before beginning his legal career in Kalispell at his father's law firm in 1988. While a Montana House representative from 1991 to 1993, he served on the Judiciary, Natural Resources and Fish, Wildlife and Parks committees.

In 2004, Bruce Measure was selected by Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer as one of the state's two representatives to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Measure served for eight years, including two years as chairman and two years as vice chairman of the council.

From 2014 to 2016, he also served as a trustee on the NWPPA Board.

Prior to his death, he was president of the Flathead Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees and worked as a partner in his Kalispell law firm, Measure, Sampsel, Sullivan & O'Brien. But to those who knew him, Measure also was a supportive father, an avid outdoorsman, and a fixture in the Flathead community.

Measure is survived by his partner, Barbara Varnum; his son, Buck Measure; and two grandchildren. **NWPPA**



### Sirvaitis retires from TEA

As of June 1, Rob Sirvaitis has retired from The Energy Authority (TEA). While with TEA, Sirvaitis also served on the NWPPA Board of Trustees for six years.

Sirvaitis's successor is Jeff Fuller, director, Client Services — West. Fuller can be contacted at [jfuller@teainc.org](mailto:jfuller@teainc.org).

TEA is a public power-owned, nonprofit corporation with offices in Jacksonville, Fla., and Bellevue (Seattle), Wash. For more information, visit [www3.teainc.org](http://www3.teainc.org). **NWPPA**



Ellis was hired as a safety manager in 1994 and was accepted into H&M's Corporate Management Training Program in 1995. He continued to progress through the company in a number of positions, including project manager and operations manager. Ellis became the director of power for the East Region in 2005, overseeing all aspects of the East Region's power operations.

Crull joined H&M as a journeyman lineman in 1997. Most recently, he has had complete business responsibility for power operations activities as the director of power operations for the Central Region. With over 21 years of experience working on large utility power transmission, distribution, and substation projects, he excels at driving operational improvements and maximizing the value of the asset base.

Ashmore has over 23 years of industry experience and has been continually recognized for his ability and leadership at H&M. He started as a lineman in 1998 and went on to serve as foreman, general foreman, project manager, construction manager, area manager, operations manager, and director. Today, as vice president of power operations, Ashmore is responsible for power construction projects throughout the West Region.

Henkels & McCoy, Inc., (H&M) is a leading utility construction firm providing critical infrastructure for the power, oil and gas pipeline, gas distribution, and communications markets throughout North America. For more information, please visit [www.henkels.com](http://www.henkels.com). **NWPPA**

### T-Line Electric joins with SML

As of May 2, 2016, T-Line Electric began operations as Stephens McCarthy Lancaster, LLC (SML). Together, the companies will serve as the premier Northwest utility sales agency. The combined efforts of T-Line Electric and SML will provide manufacturers with comprehensive sales coverage of the Pacific Northwest through six outside sales professionals and two inside sales specialists.

Please update the address for T-Line Electric. All correspondence related to commissions, taxes, accounts receivable, accounts payable, customer invoicing, and business registration should be directed to 3835 Cypress Drive Suite 206, Petaluma, CA 94954.

Stephens McCarthy Lancaster, LLC's focus is on direct sales to the electric utility customers, contractors, consultants, packagers, and distributors. For more information, visit [www.SML-LLC.com](http://www.SML-LLC.com). **NWPPA**

### H&M announces four new VPs

Henkels & McCoy, Inc. (H&M) is pleased to announce the appointment of Pierre Adam to regional vice president — Central Region as well as the promotion of Bryan Ellis, Ryan Crull, and Daniel Ashmore to vice president of power in the East, Central, and West Regions, respectively.

Adam, a high-caliber executive with over 27 years of industry experience, is well known for his record of success driving production, and the management of transmission and heavy industrial projects. Prior to joining H&M, he spent the previous 25 years with Kiewit. He began his successful career there as a field engineer, and was quickly recognized for his knowledge, skill, and leadership aptitude. Adam spent the last six years as the vice president of operations/area manager for Kiewit Power Constructors, located in Lenexa, Kan.

### Schuster to lead Thomas & Betts globally

ABB has appointed Doug Schuster as the global leader of Thomas & Betts, the installation products business it acquired in May 2012. He will be based in Memphis, Tenn., ABB's Electrification Products division Americas headquarters.

With more than 30 years' experience in the electrical engineering industry, Schuster will be charged with growing the electrical installation arm of ABB, both in the U.S. and internationally.

Schuster is a seasoned industry specialist with more than 30 years of experience. He joins ABB from Eaton Corporation, where he led the Critical Power Solutions Division and held a number of senior roles at Eaton over the last 11 years.

Thomas & Betts is now a business unit within ABB's \$10 billion Electrification Products division. ABB is a leading global technology company in power and automation. ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) **NWPPA**





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by Lori Pickford and Timothy Robison

# Morgan Meguire provides a 2016 Energy Bill update



*NWPPA is urging the House and Senate to resolve differences in their respective bills. Of particular importance to NWPPA are the hydropower licensing improvement provisions. Similar but not identical provisions are found in both the House and Senate versions of the energy bill.*

On June 14, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources chair and ranking member, along with their House counterparts on the House Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources Committees, met to discuss the “path forward” in conferencing the chambers’ respective energy bills — the Energy Policy Modernization Act (S. 2012) and its House equivalent, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015 (H.R. 8).

Senate Energy Chair Lisa Murkowski (R–Alaska), the strongest proponent of passing a final bill, would like the conference to follow a process similar to that used in crafting and defending S. 2012, as a bipartisan Senate bill, where less controversial items are addressed early on and included, with more contentious issues saved for later, or jettisoned if time runs out.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D–Wash.), ranking member on the Senate Energy panel, reiterated Democrats’ concerns with the substance of the House bill, saying that “sending over seven bills that have already [drawn a veto threat] is not a great place to start.” Those include the House version of hydropower licensing improvements, and changes to energy efficiency laws, as well as provisions intended to change market rules to enable coal and nuclear plants to “clear” in RTO mandatory capacity markets.

On June 20, House Energy and Commerce Chair Fred Upton (R–Mich.) and Natural Resources Committee Chair Rob Bishop (R–Utah) released a joint statement saying, “At the end of the day, our goal is to get something to the president that he will sign into law. From our perspective, a bill that the president will veto is a waste of time and effort and casts aside the hard work we’ve put in up to this point. We remain committed to working in a bicameral, bipartisan manner and remain hopeful we can set aside our differences and move ahead with a formal conference between the two chambers.”

Little was resolved in the meeting other than an expression of initial negotiating positions, and a decision to meet again to continue the discussion. Given the number of legislative days remaining on the Congressional schedule, and

political partisanship heating up as we move closer to the Presidential election, it is difficult to see how the House-Senate differences can be resolved quickly. A lame duck conference, however, may be a possibility.

NWPPA is urging the House and Senate to resolve differences in their respective bills. Of particular importance to NWPPA are the hydropower licensing improvement provisions. Similar but not identical provisions are found in both the House and Senate versions of the energy bill.

Both bills designate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead agency for coordinating action with other federal, state, and local agencies and tribes in fulfilling their responsibilities under federal law. In this role, FERC would develop a licensing schedule that ensures expeditious completion of all authorizations and permits.

The bills differ in two key respects: how an applicant can challenge an agency-proposed license term or condition, and how to enforce the FERC-set schedule. The Senate bill would move all such challenges to a FERC administrative law judge, instead of keeping them before the agency, as the House bill does.

The House bill would require agencies to obtain extensions of time from the U.S. Courts of Appeal; the Senate bill does not have an effective “hammer” to enforce the schedule.

Finally, S. 2012 would require FERC to recognize “early action” investments when determining the length of a hydropower license, and provisions to support hydropower energy development by expanding the definition of renewable energy for federal programs to include all forms of hydropower.

NWPPA believes the two versions, can be integrated to retain the most effective elements of each — promoting hydropower generation without sacrificing important environmental safeguards.

Other priorities for NWPPA include provisions in both bills that give FERC a formal role in reviewing the impacts of major future federal regulations that could affect the reli-

ability of the electric grid. This is authority FERC did not have as the EPA developed and finalized its Clean Power Plant Plan, which lessened its ability to influence EPA decisions.

Further, NWPPA strongly supports the inclusion of provisions to facilitate and expedite vegetation management on rights of way over federal lands. The House bill contains the robust provisions of the Zinke-Schrader bill; the Senate bill is largely silent on the issue.

Shortly after the House voted on their revised version of the Senate bill, the House approved a motion to go to conference with the Senate. The following day, House conferees were named, which include 24 Republicans and 16 Democrats, all of which sit on at least one of four relevant committees: Energy and Commerce; Natural Resources; Science, Space and Technology; and Agriculture. Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), Doris Matsui (D-Calif.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Don Young (R-Alaska), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Jeff Denham (R-Calif.), and Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) — all of which represent NWPPA members — were selected to join the conference committee.

Procedurally, the Senate must now vote to go to conference with the House, an action typically done by “unanimous consent.”

On June 13, NWPPA sent an email to all Democratic senators that represent NWPPA members, urging them to vote in favor of a motion to go to conference and again stating NWPPA’s priorities for a final bill.

Despite the legislative calendar, and controversial issues that could derail a final bill, the legislation has been declared dead more than once this year. Given the bond formed between Sens. Murkowski and Cantwell over the course of the bill, NWPPA continues to believe an energy bill can be enacted this year. **NWPPA**

*Lori J. Pickford is with Morgan Meguire, NWPPA’s Washington, D.C., consulting firm. She can be reached at either (202) 661-6196 or lpickford@morganmeguire.com. Timothy Robison, formerly with Morgan Meguire, has taken a new position working on Rep. Chris Stewart’s campaign. Robison (and his terrific sense of humor) will be missed and NWPPA wishes him the best in his new endeavor.*

## DISCOVER THE HENKELS & McCOY DIFFERENCE

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# California utilities step up to the challenge of the EV explosion

**“W**ant to see the most creative use of an EV charging parking spot?” asked Terry Crowley, the electric utility director for the City of Healdsburg, a charming northern California town known for its shopping, dining, wine, and craft beer. Crowley shows a picture of small electric vehicle — a black two-seater Smart car — parked sideways in one of the city-owned public charging stations. Hitched to the miniature-sized car is a trailer with two kayaks blocking the entrance to the adjacent charging spot. To the casual observer, it is impressive to see how much the small car is capable of towing. To Crowley, the picture helps illustrate one of the main challenges with the city’s popular car chargers — parking enforcement.

As electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular in California, publicly owned utilities are stepping up to the challenge. These utilities are installing public charging stations, offering incentives, and thinking creatively about future planning to promote and accommodate more electric vehicles. Smaller sized electric utilities, like Healdsburg, the Truckee Donner PUD, and the City of Alameda, are doing their part by being resourceful and designing programs that meet the specific needs of their communities.

“Publicly owned utilities take great pride in serving the public,” explained Gary Plass, vice-mayor of Healdsburg. “We are all seeing more electric vehicles on the roads, and we have been very active in exploring ways to provide services that meet the needs of our residents and businesses, while also being fiscally prudent.”

The recent growth of electric vehicles in California has been sparked in large part by state climate change policies established during the last 10 years. Chief among them is AB 32, the 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act, which calls for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020. Separately, through an executive order, the state also adopted a policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the state is the transportation sector, which makes up almost 40 percent of total emissions. As a result, this sector has been a major target for state lawmakers, especially Governor Jerry Brown. In 2012, Brown issued an executive order setting the goal of over 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2025. To achieve this, the governor has implemented a number of programs through agencies, such as the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission, to promote transportation electrification.

One of the state’s main climate change initiatives is the cap-and-trade auction program authorized by AB 32.



*What not to do. The double-parked car in the above photo illustrates one of the main challenges with Healdsburg’s popular car chargers — parking enforcement! Photo provided by the City of Healdsburg.*

Through this program, the Air Resources Board has given carbon allowances to electric utilities, which can be sold through state-sponsored auctions. All auction proceeds must be used exclusively for the benefit of the utility’s retail ratepayers, consistent with the goals of AB 32.

The City of Healdsburg, with a population just over 11,000 people, has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars by selling its cap-and-trade allowances. The city has used these funds to support its public electric vehicle charging stations and a rate discount program for home charging.

The city’s efforts to install public charging stations started in 2013. Sonoma County had received grant funding for the procurement and installation of public charging stations to facilitate electric vehicle travel throughout the county. Healdsburg was deemed an optimal location for charging stations because of its proximity to the county’s main highway and its popular shopping, dining, and wine-tasting sites.

Through an agreement with the city, the county agreed to have its “authorized installer,” ChargePoint, set up chargers at Healdsburg’s city hall. City hall was ideal because it is within walking distance of downtown, had capacity for additional electric services, and parking spaces were available. In addition to providing the public space, the city agreed to install the new electric service points and deliver electricity to the chargers, using its cap-and-trade auction proceeds to fund the initial and ongoing costs.

At first, two chargers were installed, and charging was offered at no cost to the public. Demand was so high, that



*The City of Healdsburg set up the above charging station at its city hall three years ago. During that time, it has seen a 40-percent annual growth in electric vehicle energy sales. This load growth is welcomed by the utility. Photo provided by the City of Healdsburg.*

within a year, four more chargers were added. Now all six chargers are near full capacity, and the city imposes an hourly fee in large part to incentivize car movement.

“One of the main complaints we get is that there are no spots to charge. This is why parking enforcement has become such a big deal,” said Crowley. “Because of the popularity of the public chargers, we are looking at doubling the number of units in the next year and a half, and adding level 3 fast chargers.” (Level 3 chargers can provide a substantial battery charge within 20 to 30 minutes, whereas a level 2 charger takes 4 to 6 hours.)

For Healdsburg residents who want to charge their electric vehicles at home, the city offers the Plug-In Electric Vehicle Discount Program. Under this program, residents who own a registered electric vehicle can qualify for a 15-percent discount on their electricity bill. The city is able to offer this discount without shifting utility costs to non-electric vehicle customers because of its cap-and-trade auction proceeds.

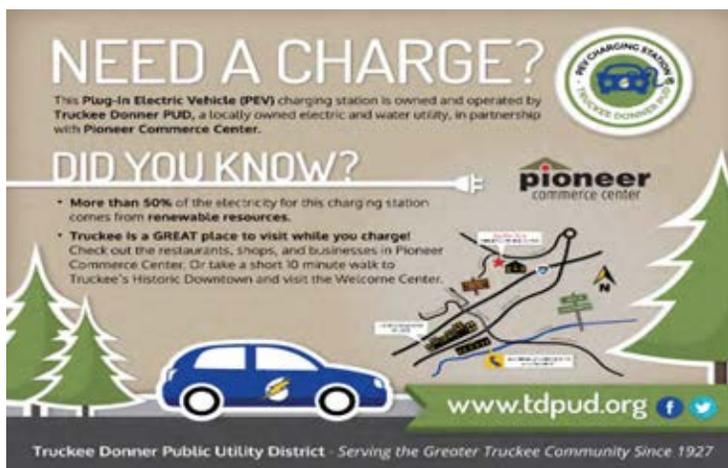
Since the city started its electric vehicle charging programs three years ago, it has seen a 40-percent annual growth in electric vehicle energy sales. This load growth is welcomed by the utility.

“The more people who use our electric utility services, the more we have sharing in the system costs,” said Vice-Mayor Plass. “Out-of-town visitors and workers who pay to charge their cars here expand the utility’s customer base. These added customers can help keep costs down for our other ratepayers, especially as our charging program grows.”

Truckee Donner PUD, located along the Highway 80 corridor on the other side of the state from Healdsburg, is looking at electric vehicle charging from a slightly different perspective.

Unlike many other utilities, home and workplace charging in the Truckee area is not where the utility is finding demand because approximately two-thirds of the region’s

*Continued on page 28*



*The Truckee Donner PUD has been active in electric vehicle charging since 2005 with the installation of a level 2 public access charging station at Meadow Park, a community park near the utility’s headquarters. This project was largely funded under a grant from the California Energy Commission, with assistance and supplemental funding from the utility itself.*

houses are second homes. Where the utility is seeing the best opportunity is in areas that can accommodate out-of-town visitors, as well as drivers passing through.

“We are a major dot on the electric vehicle highway,” said Steven Poncelet, public information and conservation manager for Truckee Donner PUD. “People like to visit the Truckee area to enjoy the outdoors, ski, and visit the historic downtown. We are also the gateway to Lake Tahoe and the Northern Sierra for people traveling to and from the Bay Area and Reno. A growing number of these people are driving electric vehicles, and we want them to charge in Truckee.”

The Truckee Donner PUD has been active in electric vehicle charging since 2005 with the installation of a level 2 public access charging station at Meadow Park, a community park near the utility’s headquarters. This project was largely funded under a grant from the California Energy Commission, with assistance and supplemental funding from the utility itself.

Usage has been low with the Meadow Park charger, but it increased dramatically in the last few years, with average annual usage growing by more than 500 percent over that time period. The utility also saw Tesla develop a network of 14 fast chargers (for the exclusive use of Tesla car drivers) in a parking lot behind a Truckee grocery store and in a popular business/restaurant area.

With these growth indicators, the Truckee Donner PUD took action last year and installed four new public chargers in areas convenient for the community and visitors. The utility plans on using these chargers to learn more about the impacts electric vehicles can have on load growth and the distribution system. Moreover, the utility is looking to better understand the electric vehicle charging business.

“This is going to be a major learning experience for the utility,” said Stephen Hollabaugh, electric utility and assistant general manager of Truckee Donner PUD. “We are basically testing how to get into the charging business and also recoup our costs to serve electricity to the private net-

works. We see a huge potential here to provide our community with a valuable service, which is why we are doing it.”

“I have been impressed with how quickly electric vehicles have grown in Truckee,” said Bob Ellis, board member for Truckee Donner PUD. “I am pleased that we have been able to act so swiftly to get the chargers out there for the public to use. This project will be a big help in informing the utility as we prepare for our next steps.”

In the City of Alameda (which mostly consists of an island community of approximately 80,000 residents off the Oakland coast in the San Francisco Bay), Alameda Municipal Power has been promoting electric vehicles since 1997 when it began offering a discount to residents who charge their cars at home. Currently under this program, an electric vehicle owner receives a monthly electric bill discount between \$9 and \$21 depending on the size of the vehicle.

In 2014, the city saw participation in its electric vehicle charging discount program nearly double over the course of 12 months. Despite the discount, some of the utility’s customers expressed concern that their electric bills increased significantly due to their charging. The utility received requests from customers to replace the discount program with a new rate structure. As a result, the city-owned utility began revisiting how it approaches electric vehicles by reviewing its rate program.

“We want to be responsive to the community and develop a program that creates an incentive to own an electric vehicle,” said Madeline Deaton, commissioner to the city’s Public Utility Board. “We also want to recognize the customer’s individual charging behavior, as well as ensure that costs are not shifted to other ratepayers.”

One way to do this is through a time-of-use rate that encourages customers to charge their cars during off-peak hours when rates are lower — typically at certain points during the night. This, however, requires advanced metering infrastructure (i.e., smart meters) and billing technology that are not available at many small utilities.

In 2014, Alameda Municipal Power started a pilot pro-

ject to install smart meters, which included over 1,000 total commercial and residential meters. After further review of the potential benefits, the utility decided to completely commit to smart meters, and has set a timeline for full deployment by November 2017.

“Our smart meters will provide us with a lot of different opportunities,” said Glenn Steiger, general manager of Alameda Municipal Power. “For example, once we start implementing our time-of-use rates in the winter, our customers will have more control over their charging costs.”

Like Healdsburg and Truckee Donner PUD, the City of Alameda also has a number of public chargers — both level 3 and level 2 chargers — that it owns and operates. There has been a flat fee for charging at the level 3 chargers — \$7 per session. The utility received substantial feedback from the community expressing interest in a per-kilowatt-hour fee to encourage use by smaller electric vehicles and those which do not need a full charge. In response, the utility changed its public charging rate from \$7 per session to \$0.45 per kilowatt-hour.

“The beauty of a community-owned utility like ours is that it gives our customers the ability to have a say in how the utility runs,” said Steiger. “Our rate change at our public chargers is just one example of this.”

A common thread that the City of Healdsburg, Truckee Donner PUD, and the City of Alameda all share is that they belong to the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), a nonprofit California joint powers agency that includes 12 other members utilities.

“We are proud of the work our member utilities are doing in the area of electric vehicles,” said Carol Garcia, chair of NCPA and mayor of the City of Roseville, which owns and operates its own electric utility. “They are able to implement their programs while also keeping rates low for their ratepayers. Designing programs that keep rates low will be critical if we want to achieve the state’s ambitious goal of 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025.” **NWPPA**

*Mario De Bernardo is the external affairs manager for the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), a nonprofit California joint powers agency consisting of 15 members, including the City of Healdsburg, Truckee Donner PUD, and the City of Alameda. NCPA was founded in 1968 on the principle of environmental stewardship, and is a recognized national leader in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable generation, and carbon reduction. De Bernardo may be reached at [mario.debernardo@ncpa.com](mailto:mario.debernardo@ncpa.com) or (916) 781-4222.*

*Truckee Donner PUD took action last year and installed four new public chargers, like the one below at Pioneer Commerce Center, in areas convenient for the community and visitors. The utility plans on using these chargers to learn more about the impacts electric vehicles can have on load growth and the distribution system. Photo provided by Truckee Donner PUD.*



# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Job Opportunities ads are also accepted from non-members. Ads are \$330 per listing for a 30-day period.
- *Copy must be received before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of publication* (for example, February 25 for March issue).
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COMPANY: Kittitas PUD (Ellensburg, Wash.)

SALARY: \$28.58-\$36.58 per hour, DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 17, 2016.

TO APPLY: Submit an application and resumé to Kittitas PUD, Attn: Human Resources, 1400 Vantage Hwy, Ellensburg, WA 98926, or via the website at [www.kittitaspud.com](http://www.kittitaspud.com).

**POSITION: Service & Design Project Manager II (R16-370)**

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 18, 2016.

TO APPLY: Complete the employment application found at [https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS\\_External/CSSPage\\_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-370](https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-370). Call (503) 464-7250 if you have questions.

**POSITION: Service & Design Project Manager II (R16-334)**

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: \$4,000-\$5,000 per month.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 18, 2016.

TO APPLY: Complete the employment application found at [https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS\\_External/CSSPage\\_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-334](https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-334). Call (503) 464-7250 if you have questions.

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**

COMPANY: Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Hayden, Idaho)

SALARY: \$43.41 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 18, 2016.

TO APPLY: Interested candidates must complete a KEC employment application and supporting materials, available at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com). Mail to HR Manager, Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc., 2451 W. Dakota Ave., Hayden, ID 83835, or fax to HR Department at (208) 762-8154.

**POSITION: Director of Member Relations**

COMPANY: Homer Electric Association, Inc. (Homer, Alaska)

SALARY: Competitive.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 21, 2016.

TO APPLY: Applications may be completed online at <http://homerelectric.applicantpro.com>. If you require an accommodation to complete this application, please contact Charlene Flyum at [hr@homerelectric.com](mailto:hr@homerelectric.com) or (907) 235-3369 for assistance.

**POSITION: Power Generation Principal Mechanical Engineer**

COMPANY: Tacoma Power (Tacoma, Wash.)

SALARY: \$85,092.80-\$120,889.60 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 23, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS\\_External/CSSPage\\_Referred.ASP?Req=R15-412](https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R15-412).

**POSITION: Lineman**

COMPANY: City of Ukiah (Ukiah, Calif.)

SALARY: \$6,506 per month.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 24, 2016.

TO APPLY: Applications are available at the City of Ukiah, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA, (707) 463-6272, or they may be downloaded at [www.cityofukiah.com/jobs](http://www.cityofukiah.com/jobs).

**POSITION: System Engineer**

COMPANY: Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 24, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.penlight.org/jobs](http://www.penlight.org/jobs). Click View Job Opportunities, select System Engineer, and create a profile and submit an application. Any questions can be directed to [britni@penlight.org](mailto:britni@penlight.org).

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**

COMPANY: Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.)

SALARY: \$41.96 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 24, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.penlight.org/jobs](http://www.penlight.org/jobs). Click View Job Opportunities, select Journeyman Lineman, and create a profile and submit an application. Any questions can be directed to [britni@penlight.org](mailto:britni@penlight.org).

**POSITION: Field Engineer I/II**

COMPANY: Columbia River PUD (St. Helens, Ore.)

SALARY: \$27.13-\$43.46 per hour, DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 27, 2016.

TO APPLY: You may visit our office in Deer Island to pick up an application packet, call our job line at (503) 397-8159 to have an application packet mailed to you, or download a complete application packet on our website at [www.crpud.net/jobs](http://www.crpud.net/jobs).

**POSITION: Lineman**

COMPANY: City of Centralia (Centralia, Wash.)

SALARY: \$42.36 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 27, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply by submitting a complete City of Centralia application to Human Resources, P.O. Box 609, Centralia, WA 98531; email application to [crydalch@cityofcentralia.com](mailto:crydalch@cityofcentralia.com); or fax to (360)330-7673. Application can be found at [www.cityofcentralia.com](http://www.cityofcentralia.com).

**POSITION: Service & Design Project Managers II/III (R16-412)**

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 29, 2016.

TO APPLY: Complete the employment application found at [https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS\\_External/CSSPage\\_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-334](https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-334). Call (503) 464-7250 if you have questions.

**POSITION: CDL Driver Class A**

COMPANY: Border States Electric (Billings, Mont.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 28, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [careers.borderstates.com](http://careers.borderstates.com).

**POSITION: Application Engineer**

COMPANY: Border States Electric (Billings, Mont.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 29, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [careers.borderstates.com](http://careers.borderstates.com).

**POSITION: Finance Director**

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

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 29, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.jeffpud.org](http://www.jeffpud.org).

**POSITION: High Voltage Line Worker**

COMPANY: City of Redding (Redding, Calif.)

SALARY: \$49.17 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 29, 2016.

TO APPLY: View detailed job announcement and apply online at [www.cityofredding.org](http://www.cityofredding.org).

**POSITION:** Electrical Engineer - Distribution, Level III  
**COMPANY:** Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 29, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** To be considered for this position, please complete the following employment application by the deadline: [https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS\\_External/CSSPage\\_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-343](https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R16-343)  
 Call (503) 464-7250 if you have questions about this position.

**POSITION:** Field Specialist  
**COMPANY:** Efficiency Services Group (ESG) (Hillsboro, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** TBD.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** July 29, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.energyservicesgroup.com/about/careers/](http://www.energyservicesgroup.com/about/careers/)

**POSITION:** Principal Distribution Design Engineer  
**COMPANY:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Sacramento, Calif.)  
**SALARY:** \$151,284 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** August 12, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.smud.org/careers](http://www.smud.org/careers).

**POSITION:** General Manager  
**COMPANY:** Kotzebue Electric Association, Inc. (Kotzebue, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** August 15, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit completed application to Andy Leman, Kempffel, Huffman & Ellis, P.C., Counsel for Kotzebue Electric Association, Inc., 255 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; phone: (907) 277-1604; or email: [jal@khe.com](mailto:jal@khe.com).

**POSITION:** Journeyman Lineman  
**COMPANY:** Kodiak Electric Association, Inc. (Kodiak, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$46.95 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** September 19, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.kodiakelectric.com](http://www.kodiakelectric.com).

**POSITION:** Journeyman Meterman  
**COMPANY:** Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$48.63 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** September 29, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.muni.org/jol](http://www.muni.org/jol).

**POSITION:** GIS Specialist  
**COMPANY:** City of Healdsburg (Healdsburg, Calif.)  
**SALARY:** \$5,758 monthly.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us](http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us) or download the required application and mail your application materials to the City of Healdsburg Personnel Office, 401 Grove Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448, or email to [mmurillo@ci.healdsburg.ca.us](mailto:mmurillo@ci.healdsburg.ca.us).

**POSITION:** Construction Supervisor  
**COMPANY:** Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Dillingham, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$37.46-\$49.17 hourly.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** A detailed job description and application is available at the cooperative's headquarters in Dillingham, at [www.nushtel.com](http://www.nushtel.com), or at the Alaska job center.

**POSITION:** Transmission Planning Engineer  
**COMPANY:** Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$69,700-\$107,600 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Applicants are required to submit a cover letter and resume detailing interest in the community, position, and related experience. To expedite the process, combine your cover letter and resume into one PDF or Word document and upload electronically when requested in the online application process. Interested parties are also invited to contact Ruth Erwert, recruiting manager, at [joblist@chelanpud.org](mailto:joblist@chelanpud.org).

## GIS/Joint Use Manager



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

Responsibilities include Supervision of employees providing GIS and Joint Utilities functions. Lead company efforts to develop and improve GIS, Mapping, T&D Asset Records, and Joint Use functions. Work across utility departments to ensure proper management and delivery of geospatial data and applications. Review and analyze map production and quality, assign work and monitor output. Guide technical staff assisting with analysis and implementation of technical procedures, current and future technologies and process enhancements. Administer the Utility's Joint Use Rental and Ownership agreements

This position requires advanced technical experience with enterprise ESRI ArcGIS, ArcFM, & related technologies, experience working with AutoCAD, premier analytical skills, presentation skills and problem solving ability, knowledge of electric utility operations, electric systems connectivity and related mapping and spatial data management. Advanced skills in Excel, Word and AutoCAD and working knowledge of applicable codes and industry standards is required. Outstanding interpersonal skills and a strong commitment to excellent customer service. Strong leadership skills and supervisory experience is preferred. A minimum of 5 years of relevant GIS experience is required. A bachelor's degree in a technical field or the equivalent combination of education and experience is required.

To learn more about the duties and qualifications of this position, go to our website at [www.clarkpublicutilities.com](http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com) and click on Jobs.

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

**POSITION:** Project Manager  
**COMPANY:** Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Hayden, Idaho)  
**SALARY:** \$75,000-\$95,000 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Interested candidates must complete a KEC employment application and supporting materials, available at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com). Mail to HR Manager, Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc., 2451 W. Dakota Ave., Hayden, ID 83835, or fax to HR Department at (208) 762-8154.

**POSITION:** Journeyman Meter Tech  
**COMPANY:** Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$42.98 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit your cover letter, professional resumé, employment application, and references to Bev Madan at [bmadan@opalco.com](mailto:bmadan@opalco.com). **NWPPA**

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