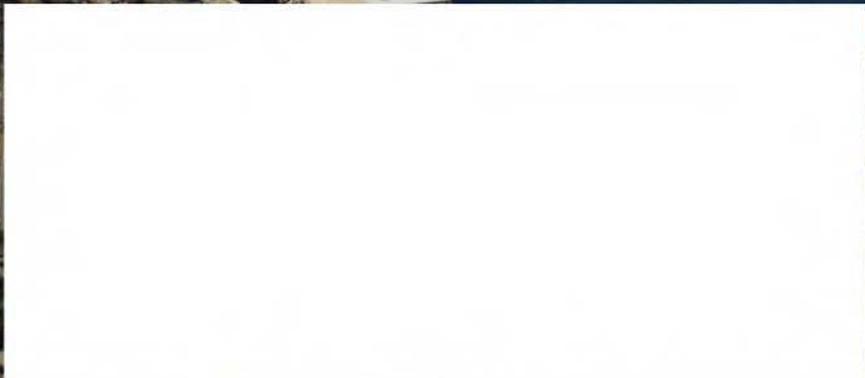
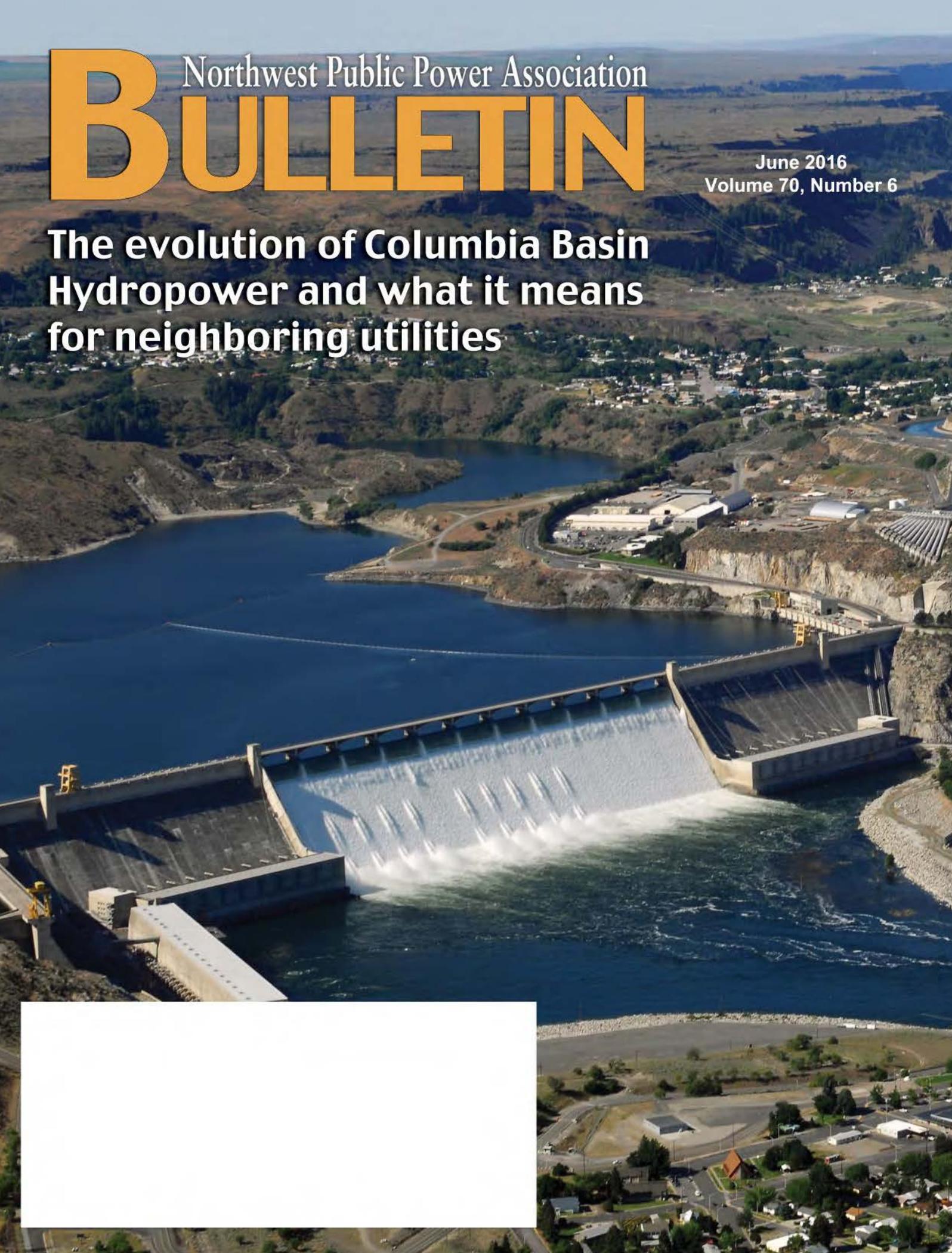


# Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**

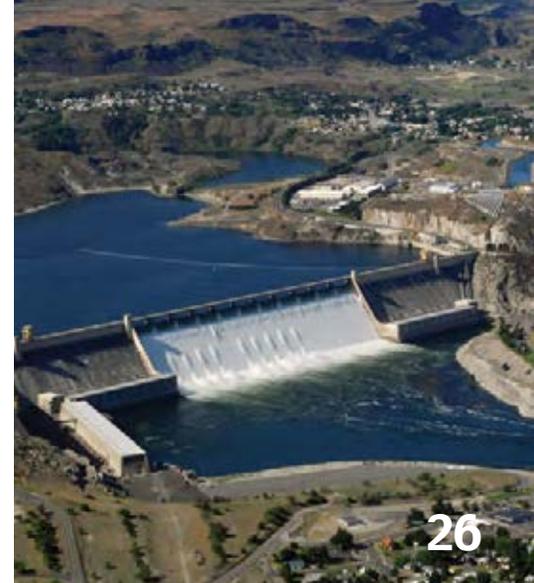
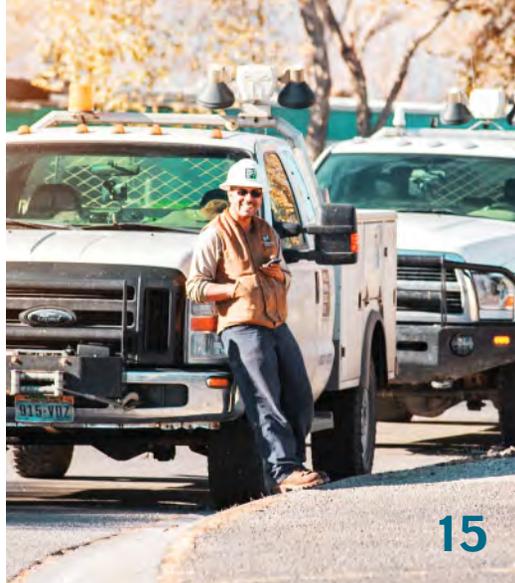
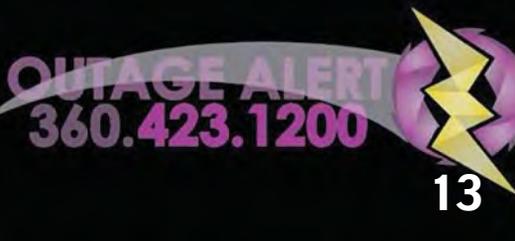
June 2016  
Volume 70, Number 6

**The evolution of Columbia Basin  
Hydropower and what it means  
for neighboring utilities**



# POWER OUTAGE

Currently in Progress



**On the cover:** One of the unique characteristics of the Columbia Basin Hydropower's latest endeavor, the North Dam Project, is that the flow augmentation could be utilized to increase the energy and sustained peaking capability of the Pacific Northwest's hydrosystem from Grand Coulee Dam (pictured on the cover) and downstream dams during regional power system stress events. Photo provided by Columbia Basin Hydropower.

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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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Northwest Public Power Association



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**Coming in the next issue:**  
California promotion of electric vehicles.

# NWPPA members Charged Ahead in Tulalip

**T**hank you to the over 250 attendees who attended NWPPA's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Membership Meeting last month (May 15-18) — we could not have done it without you! After celebrating our past with an eye on the future at last year's whirlwind diamond anniversary celebration in Alaska, this year we continued looking to the future and Charged Ahead in Tulalip, Wash. Attendees, sponsors, speakers, and vendors all came together to reflect on the activity we are seeing across the energy sector with new leaders, new technology, and new workforces.

"This is a time of big transitions," said Winnie Adams of OPALCO. "NWPPA did an excellent job of selecting topics and presenters. Bravo!"

"Wonderful venue, relevant content, well organized, many opportunities for networking, good sponsor recognition, and great moderators," said Crystal Enkvist of Alaska Power Association. "Great job, NWPPA!"

Ken Munson of California's Sunverge Energy kicked off the conference on Tuesday with his discussion about where battery technology is heading. Later in the afternoon, Russ Weed of UniEnergy Technologies and Craig Collar, general manager of Snohomish PUD, continued the battery storage topic with a presentation on their experiences with large-scale battery storage right there in Washington state. Talking about the new technology and showing how our members are incorporating it proved to be very useful for many.

"The overall message of how our industry is changing and how we need to take the lead in our own communities is invaluable," said Debbie Bone-Harris of Franklin PUD.

Bill Nordmark of Golden Valley Electric Association found Carmen Proctor's afternoon presentation on Nelson Hydro's communication cafés useful for that very reason.

"The community conversations was great and gave me a lot to think about for GVEA," said Nordmark.

The speakers on the second day delivered five-star-rated presentations and brought the conference to a close with enthusiasm and lots of food for thought.

Shane Harris of Washington, D.C.'s *The Daily Beast*, kicked off the day with an informative yet frightening detail of cybersecurity and critical infrastructures.

According to Doug Miller of PUD No. 2 of Pacific County, "They were all great topics, but the cybersecurity session was tops!"

Harris opened up the day with a bang, and the final speaker of the conference, Jake Greene, closed it with another bang. Greene came on stage and joked that he was super excited about his time slot, which was after lunch, after a session that had the lights dimmed, and the last session of the conference. Despite his challenging timeslot, Greene's vibrant and easy-to-follow presentation about intergenerational communication made an impression on many attendees.

"Well, Jake finally got through to me," said Bob Wiggins of Clatskanie PUD. "I'm going to make a stab (notice my verb — cut, pierce, assault with sharp pointy object) at social media!"

Greene's advice to Wiggins and others: "Social media is like rock and roll — you can appreciate it without knowing how to play/use every subgenre."

Panel discussions served as an effective vehicle to have many different voices heard regarding a single topic, and they were also very popular with attendees. On Wednesday, a CEO panel moderated by PPC's Scott Corwin did just that and did so to rave reviews.

"Everyone on the CEO panel related to issues our boards, managers, and staff deal with," said Marianne Roose of Lincoln Electric. "Bryan Case was especially great!"

Panelists included Case of Fall River REC, Cory Borgeson of GVEA, Glenn Steiger of the City of Alameda, and Annette Creekpaum of Mason County PUD No. 3.

However, the time at Tulalip wasn't all work. On Wednesday evening, attendees enjoyed the President's Reception honoring outgoing president Dick Morris, local

*Continued on page 4*



The Daily Beast's Shane Harris.



Board President Dick Morris presided over Tuesday's Annual Business Meeting.



Wednesday's CEO panel participants: (L-R) Cory Borgeson of GVEA, Scott Corwin of PPC, Annette Creekpaum of Mason County PUD No. 3, Bryan Case of Fall River REC, and Glenn Steiger of the City of Alameda.



An Annual Meeting tradition, 2015-16 Board President Dick Morris hands the rubber chicken over to the 2016-17 president, Alex Love.

Northwest fare at the banquet dinner, and a presidential hand-off to Alex Love of Nelson Hydro, NWPPA's 2016-17 president. However, the most memorable event of the evening was when Morris and NWPPA's Arnie Winkler joined the jazz



NWPPA's Arnie Winkler and Board President Dick Morris (far left and right) joined the Jacqueline Tabor Jazz Band on stage at Wednesday evening's banquet.

band on stage to play their trumpet and trombone respectively. Winkler will be retiring at the end of the month and seeing him perform on stage was a fantastic send off for our director of education and workforce development.

As always, the conference wouldn't be as successful without the generous support of our sponsors. This year, over 20 businesses came forward to sponsor various events — such as breakfasts, refreshment breaks, and entertainment — throughout the conference. Thank you to all of them!

Mark your calendars now to join us for the 2017 Annual Conference and Membership Meeting at the Sunriver Resort in Oregon, May 21-24. We hope to see you there! **NWPPA**



Looking for a presentation you may have missed or would like to revisit? All available presentations from the annual meeting can be found on [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org) under View Conference Presentation Materials in the Member Resources dropdown menu.

## 2016–2017 NWPPA Board officers, trustees announced

**A**t last month's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Membership Meeting, the NWPPA Board of Trustees introduced Alex Love of Nelson Hydro (Nelson, B.C.) as the 2016-2017 NWPPA Board of Trustees president. Love will serve a one-year term as board president.

At the meeting, the board also announced the following officers:

- First Vice President Steven Taylor of Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.)
- Second Vice President Jackie Flowers of Idaho Falls Power (Idaho Falls, Idaho)
- Secretary/Treasurer Scott Egbert of Wells Rural Electric Company (Wells, Nev.)
- Immediate Past President Dick Morris of Trinity PUD (Weaverville, Calif.)

Along with the officer announcements, the membership re-elected seven trustees for second three-year terms: Arlen Orchard of SMUD (Sacramento, Calif.), Terry LaLiberte of Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Hayden, Idaho), Chuck Thurman of Monmouth Power & Light (Monmouth, Ore.), Jafar Taghavi of Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor,



Alex Love



Steven Taylor



Jackie Flowers



Scott Egbert



Dick Morris

Wash.), Buddy Treadway of Benton REA (Prosser, Wash.), Larry Dunbar of City of Ellensburg (Wash.), and associate member representative Angie Sanchez Virnoche of FCS GROUP (Redmond, Wash.). In addition, Susan Thraen of Missoula Electric Cooperative (Missoula, Mont.) and Dominic Ivanoff of Kotzebue Electric Association (Kotzebue, Alaska) were both appointed to fill one-year unexpired terms.

In addition to these trustees, Bob Hammond of the City of Richland Energy Services (Wash.) was elected by the membership to serve a first three-year term on the Board of Trustees, and Terry Kelly of Salem Electric (Salem, Ore.) was re-elected for a first full three-year term.

NWPPA's board of trustees consists of 40 individuals from member utilities across the Western U.S. and Canada.

**NWPPA**

# Q&A with NWPPA's new president, Alex Love

**O**n May 17, 2016, at their 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Tulalip, Wash., the NWPPA Board of Trustees introduced Alex Love as the 2016-17 NWPPA Board of Trustees president. Love will serve a one-year term as board president.

Love, who has nearly 20 years of electric utility experience, joined the NWPPA Board of Trustees in 2012. He first worked in the power electronics business, but then in 1999 he transitioned to working in the electric utility industry as an electrical engineer working on remote generation systems in the high arctic in Canada's Northwest Territories. For several years he held engineering and management positions across western Canada; then in 2008, he was hired by Nelson Hydro in British Columbia to be its general manager and he continues in that position today.



**NWPPA: Since joining the board in 2012, how have you seen NWPPA grow and improve?**

**Love:** I have always known NWPPA's reputation for delivering high-quality courses. Over the last few years I have seen the range of course offerings increase quite a bit and the feedback from my staff continues to validate that the quality of the courses remains great.

**NWPPA: How has public power changed in the last 5-10 years?**

**Love:** I think a couple of aspects have changed. First, the regulatory regime has become more complex which certainly adds administrative workload to most utilities. The other aspect is that the crisp demarcation line the meter used to create is becoming fuzzy; now there are initiatives that have aspects on both sides of the meter. Examples include rooftop solar, community energy projects, and home energy management that are using data and energy from both sides of the meter and are creating a more complex operating environment for electric utilities. While it may be more complex, it also creates a whole suite of new opportunities. Opportunities for better overall energy efficiency, offering more services to our customers rather than just pure energy — now we can offer fiber to the home, community solar, lowest cost energy, greenest energy, and home energy improvements.

**NWPPA: What have you learned from your experience as general manager of Nelson Hydro that you will use as NWPPA board president?**

**Love:** I learned that our customers are interested in more than just power rates. They also want to know how the other aspects, such as environment, reliability, local generation, and energy efficiency, can fit together with rates to provide the best overall utility operation.

**NWPPA: What do you see as the current challenges at Nelson Hydro?**

**Love:** We would like to expand our business to offer even more services to our customers, but launching each of these requires much due diligence and time which stretches our resources.

**NWPPA: What do you see as the current challenges of the industry?**

**Love:** I think the electric utility industry is changing faster than it used to — our challenge is to be comfortable with change.

**NWPPA: As president, what are your goals for NWPPA for the upcoming year?**

**Love:** Two things. First, I would like to help non-active members and potential new members better understand the networking and educational benefits of being active within NWPPA. Since becoming actively involved with the board, I have really appreciated the networking opportunities. Having an opportunity a few times per year to talk with other utilities about shared successes, challenges, and new opportunities is very valuable to me. Second, I think now is a timely opportunity for the member utilities to help their customer base develop a better understanding of the value and benefits of public power.

**NWPPA: What is your fondest NWPPA memory/moment?**

**Love:** The meeting in Coeur d'Alene in 2012 when I became a board member because the current members made me feel very welcome.

**NWPPA: Any hobbies outside of the public power world?**

**Love:** I am getting more and more into woodworking, and I enjoy camping and boating with my family.

**NWPPA: Is there anything else that you would like to add?**

**Love:** I am honoured to be representing NWPPA and am really looking forward to the year ahead! **NWPPA**

# NWPPA honors 2016 Annual Award recipients

At our 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Membership Meeting last month, NWPPA presented the following awards to individuals within the public power community:

## Inaugural Homer T. Bone Award

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

Congressman Norm Dicks has more than four decades of federal service both as a staffer to former U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) and as congressman representing Washington's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He is the longest-serving U.S. representative from Washington state in history. Among his achievements, he has supported an "All-OH" approach to recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and worked with a successfully led Northwest congressional delegation in defeating multiple proposals to charge BPA's customers market-based rates.



## NWPPA President's Award

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

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

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



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



## Paul J. Raver Community Service Award

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

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

After working 44 years at Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC), Steve Eldrige has retired. Eldrige, a native of Umatilla County, started working at UEC in 1972 after graduating from Oregon State University. After 18 years as UEC's engineer, he was chosen as general manager. He led the cooperative through deregulation, the expansion of energy conservation, the sharp increases in wholesale power, and the creation of Eastern Oregon Telecom and Lightspeed Networks (LSN).



City of Seldovia City Manager Tim Dillon has been a strong advocate of Homer Electric Association (HEA) since coming on board in 2008. HEA serves the small community via an undersea cable and a stretch of overhead wire that traverses steep mountains and several water crossings. The



## John M. George Public Service Award

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

Ron Hatfield was first elected as a commissioner for Public Utility District No. 2 of Pacific County (Wash.) in the fall of 1988. He was subsequently elected four additional times to represent the customers of District No. 3, and has now been in office for 28 years. When Hatfield came to the utility, it was in political turmoil; he helped to right the PUD. Hatfield has represented his PUD on various boards, including serving as president of the NWPPA Board in 2007-2008.



### Distinguished Service Award

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

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

Mike Gianunzio began his public power journey in 1982 in Colorado Springs as a partner in the law firm Anderson, Johnson & Gianunzio. There he represented and advised the Colorado Springs Utilities as their general counsel. In 1995, he left Colorado for the Pacific Northwest and accepted the position of general counsel with Snohomish County PUD. After 13 years at Snohomish County PUD, he became the chief legislative and regulatory officer for SMUD. He will be retiring this June.



In October 2006, John Prescott was named president and chief executive officer for PNGC Power. Prior to joining PNGC Power, Prescott served as power supply and environmental affairs officer at Seattle City Light (Wash.). During his 36 years of work in the northwest power industry, Prescott has served as chairman of the board of



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

### Life Membership Award

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



Mike Baker



Steve Eldrige



Lynn Heminger



Robert Myhr

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

## Elaine Dixon named as Arnie Winkler's successor at NWPPA

As of May 9, Elaine Dixon has joined the NWPPA staff as the incoming director of education and workforce development. Dixon has been hired to fill the vacancy that will be created when Arnie Winkler, the current director of education and workforce development, retires on June 30.



Dixon comes to NWPPA with over 20 years of organizational learning and development experience, and 10 years of experience in the power industry. Most recently she spent eight years with Marsh and McLennan companies (Mercer, Oliver Wyman) as the global head of client delivery and then chief operations officer for the Leadership Development business. Prior to that, she worked for PacifiCorp/Scottish Power as the director of talent management. While there, her team provided organizational development, change management, succession planning, leadership development, learning, and staffing services for Pacific Power, Rocky Mountain Power, Utah Power, and PPM Energy. She has also worked for PacifiCare Health Systems and Nike Inc.

“Elaine was the unanimous selection of the interview panel,” said NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker. “She has the background and experience to make sure we don’t miss a beat at delivering value to our members with our training and educational programs.”

NWPPA members who attended last October’s Women in Public Power workshop may recognize her name; she consulted with NWPPA on that event.

“I was introduced to NWPPA as a consultant while helping develop Women in Public Power. During my research, I talked with individuals across the membership who provided stories about their background and what is needed to be successful in public power. I was thoroughly impressed by the experience, competence, agility, smarts, and dedication to the work and the needs of the community they serve,” said Dixon. “I find the mission of NWPPA to be compelling and look forward to the opportunity to work with the public power community.”

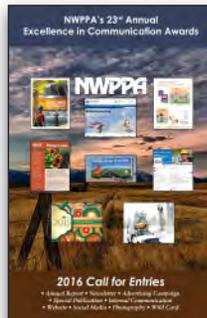
Dixon has a bachelor’s degree in industrial organizational psychology from Western Washington University, a certification in organizational systems design, and is currently completing her International Coaching Federation certification. **NWPPA**

# Communication entries due this month!

Calling all member utility communicators! If you have not yet submitted your entries for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual NWPPA Excellence in Communication Competition, please be aware that you only have a few weeks left to do so. All submissions must be postmarked by the end of this month, on Friday, July 1, to be eligible for the contest.

Winning Excellence in Communication entries will be honored at the awards banquet at the Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) on Tuesday evening, September 13, at the DoubleTree Hotel Missoula/Edgewater in Montana. In addition, one utility will come away with the prestigious Tom Hougan Award for Overall Excellence in Communication. Please remember that the 2016 competition honors communication pieces created and distributed last year in 2015; communication materials from 2016 will be disqualified.

If you have not received a Call for Entries brochure, you can download a PDF of the brochure from our website under the Members Only Resources tab. If you have questions about the brochure or contest, please contact Brenda Dunn at [brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org). NWPPA



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago — 1966

On June 2, the U.S. Senate accepted the Aspinall Amendment and sent S. 1761 (to authorize construction of the third power plant at Grand Coulee Dam) to the White House (Wash.) ... The Alaska Supreme Court ruled that a municipal body may not condemn an REA borrower incident to the expansion of city limits except by consent of the United States ... The Eugene Water & Electric Board used a Penny Promotion Folder to point out the bargain value of electricity by listing 23 different appliances and the amount of uses from each for just a penny's worth of electricity (Ore.).

### 25 years ago — 1991

The City of Ellensburg Light Department celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 15 (Wash.) ... Elmhurst Mutual Power used an optical archive system to store and retrieve the majority of their computer-generated reports (Wash.) ... Alaska's largest hydroelectric project, Bradley Lake, was reported to be on schedule and below budget ... The City of Forest Grove, Light and Power Department named Chuck Laughlin as operations superintendent (Ore.) ... Water was spilled each night at Grant County PUD's Priest Rapid Dam and Wanapum Dam to help juvenile salmon by increasing water flows (Wash.).

### 5 years ago — 2011

The Public Power Council (PPC) announced that Irene A. Scruggs joined PPC as staff counsel (Ore.) ... Snohomish County PUD General Manager Steve Klein was named the 2011 Executive of the Year by the *Snohomish County Business Journal* (Wash.) ... Tacoma Power received the first-ever Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency from the Bonneville Power Administration (Wash.) ... The board of directors of Northern Lights, Inc. selected Annie Terracciano as their new general manager (Idaho)... Ron Sternberg was promoted from instrument and control technician to chief electrician/operator at Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Idaho). NWPPA

**Save the date!**  
NWPPA's  
*Distributed Energy Resources Conference*

An illustration showing a central computer monitor with a data dashboard, connected by yellow lines to various energy-related icons: a wind turbine, a solar panel, a house with a battery, a power plant, and a car. The scene is set on a green base representing a community or utility network.

**October 12-13, 2016**  
**Northern Quest Resort in Spokane, Wash.**  
*Connect with your utility neighbors and associates!*

# July, August, and September 2016

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

### **NEW! 924.1 WHEN DISASTER STRIKES**

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, policy makers, and general managers.  
**JULY 12, 2016 — CANYONVILLE, ORE.**

### **HIGH-BILL INQUIRIES: BUILDING YOUR HBI TOOLKIT**

**Who Should Attend:** Customer/member service and field representatives who respond to customer inquiries regarding their energy use.  
**JULY 13-14, 2016 — RENO, NEV.**

### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**Who Should Attend:** Supervisors and managers, and employees who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future.  
**JULY 13-14, 2016 — RENO, NEV.**

### **CHALLENGING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who has completed at least two modules of the NWPPA Utility Accounting Certificate Program, or anyone with significant utility accounting/finance experience.  
**JULY 14-15, 2016 — RENO, NEV.**

### **AVIAN PROTECTION PLAN WORKSHOP**

**Who Should Attend:** Managers and staff responsible for or assisting in the development and maintenance of avian protection plans.  
**JULY 14-15, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3, SERIES 4 — INSIDEOUT COACHING**

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, managers, graduates of Leadership Skills, and newly appointed senior leaders.  
**JULY 19-20, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

### **NWPPA LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS GROUP MEETING**

**Who Should Attend:** Members of the NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations Group, which includes general managers, labor relations managers, and human resources professionals.  
**JULY 22, 2016 — EVERETT, WASH.**

### **NWPPA 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.  
**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. This course is eligible for NRECA Board Leadership Certificate credit.  
**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.**

**2016 Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC)**

*The Stars Are Out in Big Sky Country:  
A Campout in Missoula*

September 11-14, 2016  
DoubleTree Hotel Missoula/Edgewater  
Missoula, Mont.

- More general sessions than ever before!
- New topics!
- A new conference app!
- Ted Koppel invited!
- A fun camping theme!

### **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.  
**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.**

*Continued on page 10*

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

## 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**

## 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 should attend. This also includes employees that design or implement oil spill prevention plans and those involved in process, plant, construction, or stormwater discharges.

**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

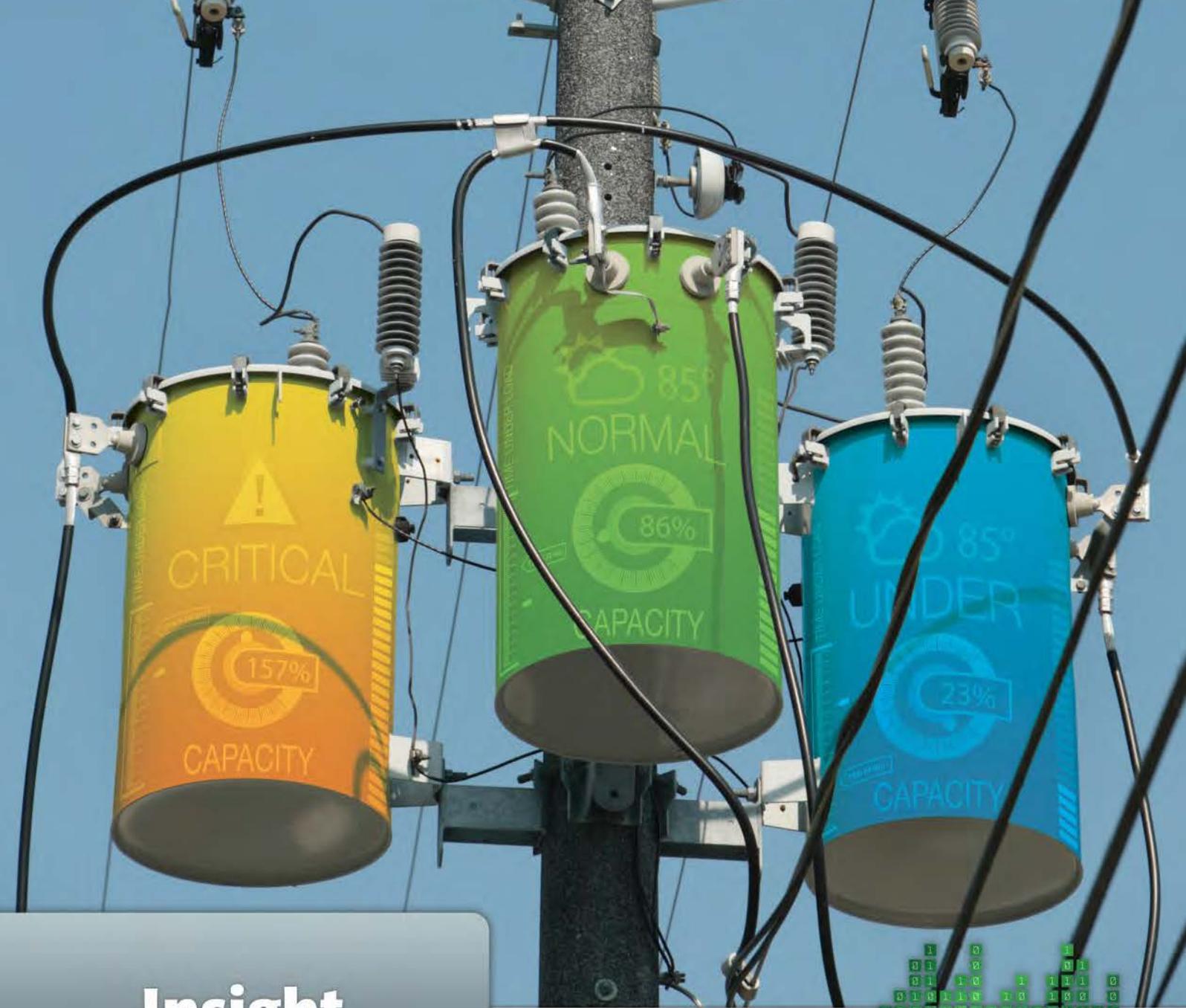
**Who Should Attend:** Analysts/managers who are new to demand response or interested in developing a demand response program for their utility.

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

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by Anita J. Decker

# Our Annual Conference helped lead members into uncharted territory



*It was a full two days of charging up! In between sessions, we also accomplished our 76<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and an awards luncheon where we remembered those no longer with us and honored many who have made significant contributions to the mission of public power and the communities they serve.*

**C**harging Ahead was the theme for NWPPA's 2016 Annual Conference & Membership Meeting held last month and charge ahead we did, hearing from industry experts and peer utilities on how they are leading the way into uncharted territory. Ken Munson, CEO for Sunverge Energy, started things off with how a third-party utility partner can enable and manage any number of resources in front or behind of the meter for the benefit of the utility and its members — a different paradigm for managing distributed energy whether a utility is small or large.

Battery technologies, micro grids, rate strategies, and climate change were just some of the challenges — yet opportunities — we have just around the corner of where we are today. The CEO panel was filled with unexpected tools to charge your battery: a Kickstarter campaign to fund the undergrounding of facilities in an environmentally sensitive area; charging customers a daily fee for their use of the distribution facilities (less than the proverbial cup of coffee); or bringing on a new clean coal generator. Bear in mind that — just as it was for those who first led the way to create public power's footprint — making an investment in our systems may not always show up with the return on investment early on; however, the investments made do provide years of service that can be leveraged and scaled to do more. We see this now with the case of two-way meters and two-way communications with our members through the ongoing advancement of technologies on both sides of the meter.

Then there was the topic of recharging the community and member conversations through cafés, videos, and six-second video bursts. You might be surprised by surveys on what your members want, what they are thinking about, and what they are doing. It's all about charging up the why we engage and then utilizing a variety of *hows* with Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, Vine, Periscope ... the list seems endless. How is your utility utilizing the potential to deeply engage in two-way action?

We also heard about cybersecurity and the importance of the electric sector sharing its experiences with phishing scams, ransomware, malware, malicious emails, and infected email attachments. The exposure is not just penetration of cyber protections on the transmission system; it's all electrical systems, including electric utility business systems. To get more information about how you can keep your utility safe, sign up with the Electricity Information Sharing & Analysis Center at [www.eisac.com](http://www.eisac.com).

It was a full two days of charging up! In between sessions, we also accomplished our 76<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and an awards luncheon where we remembered those no longer with us and honored many who have made significant contributions to the mission of public power and the communities they serve. It is always truly humbling to hear someone like Ron Hatfield from Pacific County PUD No. 2 recall the day the lights came on in his home. At the end of the awards luncheon, 2015-16 Board President Dick Morris handed the baton over to your 2016-17 president, Alex Love, general manager at Nelson Hydro in British Columbia. And I would be remiss if I didn't at least mention Dick's mischievous honoring (photo to the right) of Arnie Winkler, NWPPA's director of education and workforce development who will be retiring at the end of June, as well as their exceptional performance with the jazz band at Wednesday evening's banquet.



*Anita J. Decker*

Anita J. Decker  
NWPPA Executive Director

by Megan McKoy-Noe

## [Picture] frame your message:

### Shift social content from words to visuals

**E**ighty million pictures are shared daily on Facebook’s flagship visual network, Instagram. Snapchat users — think Millennials and younger — snap 10 billion short-lived videos a day. Facebook video views are close behind at 8 billion daily. But pictures still reign. Every **minute**, Facebook users upload 243,055 pictures.

The days of standalone-text posts are fading.

If you want to be heard by the next generation of consumers, start framing your message in still or moving pictures.

#### Think in templates

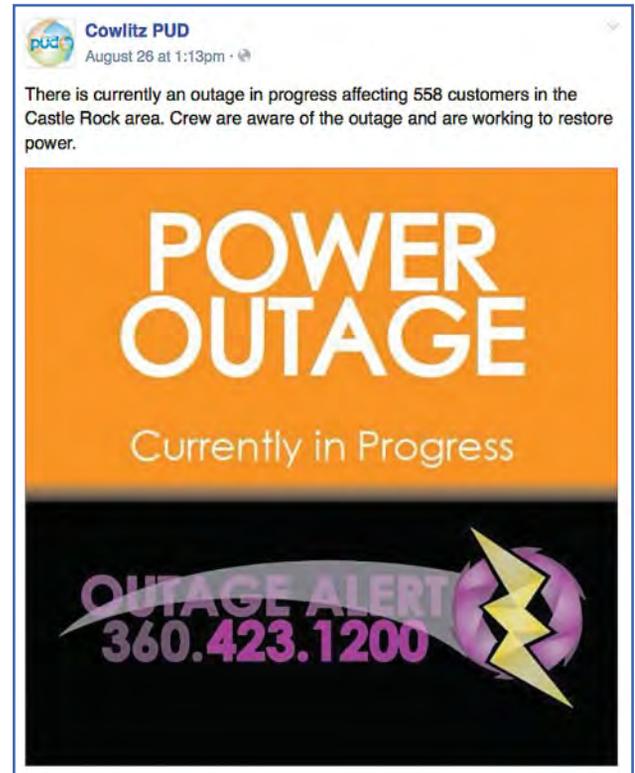
Start the shift from verbal to visual posts by creating templates for common content. For example, design a graphic with your logo, perhaps a picture of a staff member, and the words, “Want to Work with Us?” or “We’re Hiring!” To customize the image, add a line of text for the open position title.

Templates are useful for sharing efficiency rebates and scam alerts. The key is to develop a consistent look and feel while adding a visual element to posts that might otherwise get missed online.

#### Be sharable

The best content taps into consumers’ passions and leads to sharing. This does not have to be limited to power restoration (although a graphic announcing “My lights are back on!”

*Continued on page 14*



### Three easy tools to create social media images

Need to add punch to social media posts? These tools offer handy — and easy — design tools on the go.



#### Adobe Post iOS, Free

Known for its creative suite of design products, Adobe released a free app in December, Adobe Post. Use a picture from your phone’s library or pick from free stock photos. Add text using a wide selection of fonts, background designs, and filters. Only square images are supported. [Post.Adobe.com](http://Post.Adobe.com)



#### WordSwag iOS, \$3.99

Need a tried-and-true option? Craft clever social media images with WordSwag. Use one of your pictures or pick from several generic backgrounds. The app offers five layout options for each font style. Images are square, and users see a preview of how the cropped image will appear on Twitter. [WordSwag.co](http://WordSwag.co)



#### Canva Web or iPad, Free

Want to avoid fumbling with your phone to create an image? Try Canva on your desktop or iPad. Canva helps non-designers create a wide range of social support content (pins, Twitter posts, Facebook cover images, etc.). Upload your own photo and use the service for free, or pay only \$1 for stock images. [Canva.com](http://Canva.com) **NWPPA**

could spread like wildfire after a long outage). Instead, look for sharing opportunities with messages about community grant programs, rebates, youth programs, and energy efficiency.

Create an image for a program such as Operation Round Up. The focus of the graphic could be a quote about the benefit of building a community, or it could be a quote from a recipient whose life is better because of the program. Include a link to program details in the post so more people can join the effort.

If you have time, invest in quick videos highlighting the faces of the people your programs help. Short stories can be powerful. If your subject (individual or community group) has a social media presence, tag them in the post so they can share your content, too.

Action words help (share the word, pass it on). But the quality of the content — how it resonates with consumers — is the real reason people may choose to share.

### More tips for planning visual content

- **Work ahead.** Before an outage, create generic video and images with the utility logo and a number to call to report outages. Consider making at least two

versions (snow versus rain) to reflect different seasons.

- **Record restoration.** During an outage, share short (less than a minute) video updates from the field. Post videos directly to Facebook for better reach. Some utilities are experimenting with live video through Facebook and third-party apps such as Periscope. While immediate access is great, be aware that safety issues might inadvertently get broadcast.
- **Boots on the ground:** Powerful utility visual opportunities are found in the field. Encourage lineworkers to share pictures and video they capture while on the job. Some utilities offer incentives if a submitted picture or video is used.

Your message matters. Use pictures and video to make sure consumers hear you loud and clear. **NWPPA**

*Megan McKoy-Noe is the content marketing and development manager for Ruralite Services and can be contacted at [meganm@ruralite.org](mailto:meganm@ruralite.org). For information on how Ruralite Services can help with your social media strategy, visit [RuraliteServices.org/Tools/Social](http://RuraliteServices.org/Tools/Social).*

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by Garrett Hylton

# Wells Rural Electric raises the bar on its culture of safety by making it a team effort

**A**s Ryan Brodsho, Wells Rural Electric Company's (WREC) manager of operations, pinned up a certificate from NWPPA commemorating the cooperative surpassing 750,000 hours without a lost-time accident, he wondered how well that number actually represented WREC's company-wide approach to safety. Did those 750,000 hours reflect a true culture of safety throughout the company?

Rather than pointing to the number as a confirmation, WREC's management and staff would prefer to treat that success as a starting place.

"Just because the numbers say it, doesn't mean you've got a culture of safety," Brodsho said.

Despite taking pride in being able to keep employees safe, WREC's management and staff has made its culture of safety a focus for yearly planning throughout the company.

The goal is simple: to not settle for "safe enough" and encourage all employees to keep safety in mind on a daily basis.

"It takes time to get used to," said Brodsho. "I think people see a lot of good in it. We're headed in the right direction."

## A solid foundation

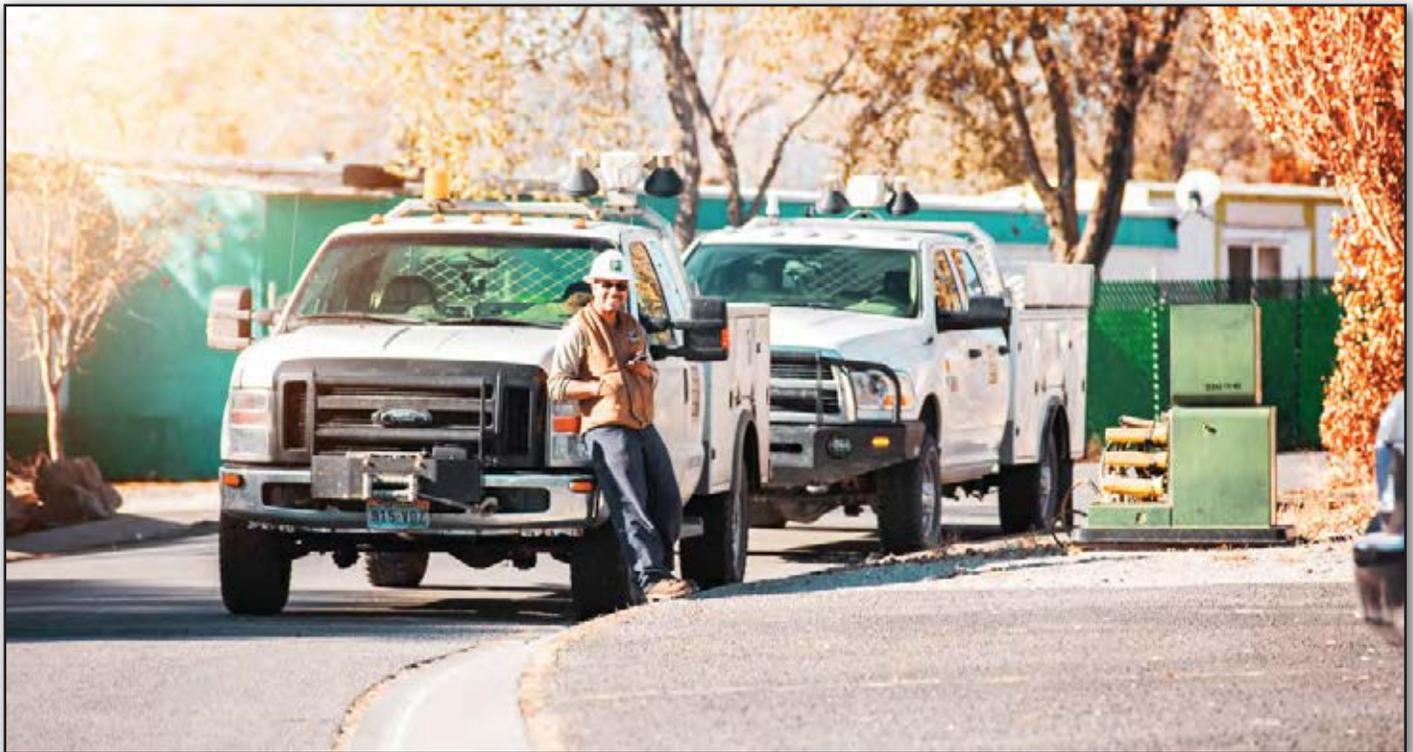
The discussion of safety in the world of electric utilities often starts with the line crews. After all, they're the employees who are regularly subjected to working around high voltages in adverse scenarios and extreme weather conditions.

For the line workers who leave their families at all hours to make sure their customers have electricity, working safely isn't optional.

"The industry is safety driven," said Brodsho. "Our linemen put value in safety. We do a lot of hot work and guys don't get complacent because it's important."

Aside from each lineman's journeyman training, WREC's line crews adhere to industry standards such as frequently checking equipment; participating in "tailgate" meetings before jobs; and following Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. They also complete a monthly training schedule to stay sharp and current. Even the company's preventative maintenance program con-

*Continued on page 16*



*Safety is a matter of daily diligence for line crew workers, such as Ismael Ramirez pictured above, but now at WREC, that concern for safety extends beyond operations. Photo by Veronica Jimenez.*

*“Inherently, the line crew is more concerned with safety, but a culture of safety is a team approach, something shared throughout the company. We want employees not just looking out for their own safety but for everyone else’s safety as well.”*

Lonnie Abbott,  
WREC manager of loss control



*WREC’s culture of safety incorporates a team approach, and is better because of it. (L-R) Jacob Manning, Willis Bland, and Chris Duffy. Photo by Layla Walz.*

tains a safety element by correcting possibly hazardous situations before they happen.

Brodsho pointed to a tradition of strong leadership and the company’s willingness to invest in new, reliable equipment as other strong contributors to the company’s safety record. Manager of Loss Control Lonnie Abbott mentioned WREC’s participation in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) as another important component of WREC’s culture of safety.

One of the key goals on the operations side is to avoid complacency by continually reviewing safety procedures and regulations and paying attention to small but important details.

“We’re not trying to say anybody isn’t safe, we just want to make people more safe,” said WREC Coordinator of Energy Services Spencer Egbert, who is also the chairman of the WREC Safety Committee. “We want our culture of safety to help us stay ahead of the curve and be ahead of any type of regulation.”

### Knowing safety inside and out

While safety is a matter of daily diligence for the line crews, WREC’s initiative to build a workforce of safety-concerned employees extends beyond operations.

“Inherently, the line crew is more concerned with safety, but a culture of safety is a team approach, something shared throughout the company,” said Abbott. “We want employees not just looking out for their own safety but for everyone else’s safety as well.”

Part of the initiative to build a culture of safety was to revise the company’s safety committee. Rather than take a representative from every department in the company to serve on the committee for a year, committee members now

serve three-year terms to give them a chance to get more involved, understand the process better, and be able to see initiatives through.

“They’d get something in place and then everyone would leave and new people would come in with new ideas so there wasn’t enough follow through,” said Egbert.

So far the committee has been able to implement new truck/trailer safety checks; standardize the GPS units in line crew vehicles; and institute activities like Stand Down Friday, where employees are given work time on Friday mornings to focus on housekeeping and cleaning common areas.

Stand Down Fridays were started by Brodsho in operations to give the crews time to organize and catch up on some housekeeping during a time when they were short-handed and very busy; this activity has spread throughout the organization to include office personnel.

“Part of the goal is getting people more aware so they aren’t just walking over a cord,” said Egbert. “We want employees to look for active solutions to a problem instead of going ‘eh, that’s somebody else’s problem.’”

While mishaps and even mistakes might happen on a rare occasion, the goal of WREC’s initiative to create a culture of safety is to mitigate as much risk as possible by employing a workforce that collectively thinks about safety on a daily basis.

“We want our culture of safety to be a team approach,” Abbott said. “We want it to be something shared throughout the organization.” **NWPPA**

*Garrett Hylton is the communications director at Wells Rural Electric Company in Nevada. He can be reached at [gwbylton@wrec.coop](mailto:gwbylton@wrec.coop).*

## Clallam hires new treasurer/ controller

Clallam County PUD (Carlsborg, Wash.) announced that **Beau Brown** has joined the PUD as the new treasurer/controller.

Brown joins the PUD after 11 years of financial and accounting experience with investor-owned public utilities in Oregon and Nevada. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) with an M.B.A. from Oregon State University and a dual baccalaureate in accounting and information systems from the University of Utah.

Though new to the public power sector, Brown is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities this endeavor might provide and hopes to add value through his experience and fresh perspective.

Brown is married with two daughters and enjoys the outdoors, including snowboarding and snowshoeing during the winter and hiking in the summer. He and his family are excited to be back in the Pacific Northwest after four years in the Southwest, and they look forward to being a part of the Clallam County community. **NWPPA**



**Sheldon** (D–Potlatch) to serve a four-year term on the public power agency’s 11-member executive board. The agency’s executive board is responsible for setting policy and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. The board of directors re-appointed Sheldon as one of the board’s three outside director appointees to the agency’s executive board. Sheldon’s new term begins June 17.



Sen. Tim Sheldon

OPALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) members boarded the ferry on April 30 to participate in the 2016 Annual Meeting and board of directors’ election. The successful candidates were **Jim Lett** (incumbent) and **Brian Silverstein** for District 3; and **Dr. Jerry Whitfield** (incumbent) for District 4. Guests joined the 261 members present aboard the WSF Elwha for a total of 374 people in attendance.

Three members were elected to the Peninsula Light Co. Board of Directors as the cooperative utility held its annual meeting in Gig Harbor, Wash., on May 2. **Jeff Bucholz**, **Signo Uddenberg**, and **Spence Nordfors**, all incumbents, were re-elected to serve three-year terms. At the board meeting following the annual meeting, the following officers were confirmed for the 2016-17 term: Uddenberg, president; **Paul Alvestad**, vice president; **Marc Jorgenson**, treasurer; and **Bucholz**, secretary. The other PenLight board members include **Roger Spadoni**, **Scott Junge**, **Nick Markovich**, and **Deb Ross**.

Energy Northwest’s Columbia Generating Station stakeholders, representing 92 utilities in six states, elected members and officers to the power plant’s participants review board during their public meeting in Tulalip, Wash., on May 10. The nine participants review board members serve one- to three-year terms. Serving three-year terms are **Garry Rosman**, Inland Power & Light; **Paul Rogers**, Kittitas County PUD; and **Clay Smith**, Northern Wasco County PUD. Serving two-year terms are **Ray Mosbrucker**, Klickitat County PUD; **Karl Denison**, Mason County PUD No. 1; and **Susan Thraen**, Missoula Electric Cooperative. Serving one-year terms are **Mark Platt**, Benton REA; **Stu Nelson**, Franklin County PUD; and **Steve Houston**, Okanogan County PUD. The participants review board (PRB) also elected Mosbrucker as chair; Rosman as vice chair; and Nelson as secretary. Officers serve a one-year term.

Midstate Electric Cooperative’s 64<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, held on May 14 at La Pine (Ore.) Middle School, was well attended with 472 registered members. Incumbents **Gordon DeArmond**, **Ron Sommerfeldt**, and **Bud Kendall** all ran unopposed and were re-elected to serve members for another three-year term. Officers for 2016-2017 will be **Vic Russell**, president; Kendall, vice president; and DeArmond, secretary treasurer.

Continued on page 18

## Members report on board election results

On April 5, **Tim Meyer** was elected to the Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Hayden, Idaho) Board of Directors at the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Meyer represents District 1 and is a retired electrical engineer with more than 30 years of experience.

Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) held its 2016 Annual Membership Meeting and board election on April 26. MEA celebrated 75 years of service with 200 members and their families, totaling over 450 attendees. This year’s ballot included board seats for the Susitna East and Susitna West Districts: the Susitna East District winner is **Robert Doyle** (incumbent) and the Susitna West District winner is **Bill Kendig**.

During its board meeting on April 27, the Energy Northwest Board of Directors re-appointed **Sen. Tim**



Tim Meyer

At Lane Electric's (Eugene, Ore.) Annual Membership Meeting held on May 23, **Jack Billings** and **Hugh Buermann** retained their seats on the Lane Electric Board of Directors for three more years. Billings has served on Lane Electric's board of directors since 2013 and will continue with another three-year term for the Central District. Appointed to Lane Electric's board of directors in 2015, Buermann was officially elected to serve a three-year term for the Row River District. **NWPPA**

### Salem Electric awards 10 student scholarships

**A**t the Salem Electric (Ore.) Annual Meeting on May 10, Board President **Jerry Berger** recognized the cooperative's 10 \$1,000-scholarship recipients, congratulating them on their accomplishments and wishing them the best in their future endeavors.

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission administers the program and selects recipients based on school and community activities; academic promise; and the quality of their application and essay. **NWPPA**

### James appointed as new BPA deputy administrator

**B**PA Administrator **Elliot Mainzer** announced on May 4 the appointment of **Dan James**, formerly of the regional utility cooperative PNGC Power, to the position of deputy administrator for the Northwest power marketing agency.

"Dan is a terrific addition to the leadership team at Bonneville — his character and experience get right at the heart of what we are about: focusing on safety and staying connected to the region through customers, tribes, constituents, and others," said Mainzer. "Dan's positive demeanor is infectious, and he's dedicated to operational excellence and achieving tangible results."

As deputy administrator, James will be responsible for leadership, strategic planning, financial management, and regulatory affairs as well as intergovernmental and public affairs oversight. He will oversee and provide direction and guidance for program execution and administration to executive vice presidents, vice presidents, and managers of Corporate Strategy, Finance, Communications, Intergovernmental Affairs, the Ombudsman, and Compliance, Audit and Risk.

"I am delighted to have Dan's long-time expertise in the energy field joining Bonneville," said U.S. Sen. **Ron Wyden** of Oregon. "His relationship with the congressional delegation spans decades, and he brings an important knowledge of the Northwest's energy needs."

James comes to BPA from PNGC Power, where he has served as vice president of public affairs and marketing since 2007.

Prior to his PNGC experience, James worked as a federal affairs representative at Pacific Northwest Waterways Association in Vancouver, Wash., and as a senior government relations specialist at Ball Janik LLP in Portland and Washington, D.C. **NWPPA**

### Douglas County recognizes Robertson, McGee



(L-R) Commissioner Molly Simpson, Darren Robertson, and Commissioner Ron Skagen. Photos provided by Douglas County PUD.



(L-R) Commissioner Molly Simpson, Jim McGee, and Commissioner Ron Skagen.

**C**ommissioners **Jim Davis**, **Molly Simpson**, and **Ron Skagen** recognized two Douglas County PUD employees during the April 25 commission meeting held at the District's East Wenatchee (Wash.) office.

First, they awarded Journeyman Meterman **Darren Robertson** with his 20-year service award. Commissioner Davis thanked Robertson on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service. "It has been a great 20 years," said Robertson. "I feel fortunate to work here."

Then the commission presented Wildlife Biologist **Jim McGee** with his retirement plaque and thanked him for his almost 36 years of service to Douglas County PUD. **NWPPA**

## Franklin PUD completes unique community solar project

**O**n April 4, Franklin PUD broke ground on the first community solar project in Pasco, Wash.; the project began producing energy on April 28.

The project is a “solar carport” located at the Franklin PUD Administration building adjacent to the main office. The project is comprised of 252 solar panels mounted on a carport covering the parking stalls at the southeast corner of the lot. Half of the parking stalls will be available for the public to use. The total power generation capacity of the project will be 69.3 kilowatts, with enough annual energy production to power about five to six average homes.

The project was fully subscribed in December 2015 by Franklin PUD customers. The cost per block was \$200. Customers chose to purchase between one and 75 of the 1,725 blocks that were available. Community solar is a low-hassle option that generally offers a lower entry-price than rooftop solar and allows participants to support a sustainable future through an investment in a renewable source of energy: solar.

The cost of the project is funded by customer participation and some Rural Economic Development funds. In return, participants receive a proportionate credit on their electricity bill for solar energy produced by the project as well as the Washington state energy production credits. With the state production incentive of \$1.08 per kilowatt-hour generated through June 2020, and a monthly net metering credit, participants can expect a payback in three to four years. **NWPPA**

## Chelan may partner with land trust

**A** potential partnership between Chelan Douglas Land Trust and Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) for purchase of 25 acres of Columbia River shoreline along the loop trail in Douglas County would place the land in a conservation easement to benefit the community for generations to come.

“This is really significant,” said PUD Board President **Randy Smith**. “We have an obligation to ensure long-term conservation of that area ... I think that’s a very good move.”

The property includes the unique sand dunes area and is currently owned by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), which acquired the property years ago for a then-proposed highway. It has since been declared surplus to state needs. The land is in the Rock Island Hydro Project boundary.

The transaction would include a proposal to federal dam regulators to realign current project boundaries on some adjacent property owned by WSDOT, said **Jeff Smith**, District Services managing director.

If approved, the PUD would own and operate the property, “preserving its environmental attributes and passive recreational use for future generations,” Smith said. “The effort also would allow the full economic development potential of the land upland of the trail to be realized.”

Discussion on the purchase terms are continuing. The parties will return to seek board approval of the purchase in the coming months, Smith said. **NWPPA**

## SMUD names its inaugural SEED Business of the Year

**S**MUD helped launch Capital Region Small Business Week on May 2 by naming DC Enterprises the winner of the inaugural SEED Business of the Year Award. SEED (Supplier Education and Economic Development) is a program established by SMUD in 2004 to help local small businesses learn how to bid for SMUD contracts and provide incentives for them to do so. Just last year, SMUD awarded 235 contracts totaling more than \$67.5 million to qualified SEED vendors representing the construction, professional services, information technology, and materials sectors.

DC Enterprises was chosen for the award based on its active participation in SEED educational workshops and events, as well as its success in bidding for a series of contracts that have steadily increased in size and scope. DC Enterprises supplies PVC and conduits to SMUD for use in infrastructure construction and repair.

To qualify as a SEED vendor, businesses must be certified small businesses and must be SMUD customers for at least the previous six months. Qualified SEED vendors receive bid incentives when bidding on contracts and receive quicker payments once contracts are awarded.

To help local small businesses learn about the SEED program, SMUD representatives attend more than 100 events each year, including chamber mixers, conferences, and workshops. SMUD also regularly hosts SEED events at its headquarters campus.



*SEED Business of the Year Award winner DC Enterprises' owner Dan Colson stands in front of a rack filled with the type of conduit his business supplies to SMUD.*

*Continued on page 20*

“As a community-owned, not-for-profit electric service, we’re focused on providing value to our region in every way possible,” said SMUD Chief Customer Officer **Nicole Howard**. **NWPPA**

### MEA Board approves lower rates

**T**he Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) Board of Directors voted on May 9 to authorize an increase of 0.83 percent in base rates, effective the third quarter of 2016. This is lower than the budgeted 2.6 percent increase forecast for the third quarter, and total year-to-date base rate increases for 2016 are approximately 40 percent lower than anticipated.

The approval comes on the heels of a decrease to the cost of power adjustment (COPA) component of members’ bills for two consecutive quarters, thanks to recent energy sales with other utilities and a power plant that is running more efficiently than anticipated.

“We are pleased with this trend of rate savings for our members,” said MEA General Manager **Tony Izzo**. “The savings are small now, but we will continue to find ways to do more with less and collaborate with our Railbelt colleagues to capture even more benefits for our members.”

The typical MEA member uses just under 700 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month. These members can expect to see a total monthly increase of about \$0.71 as a result of the third quarter base rate adjustment.

Under the terms of rules set by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), MEA is allowed on a quarterly basis to file for limited increases or decreases in base rates, provided that the adjustments stay within certain financial parameters established by the RCA. The rate filing will take effect during the first week of July 2016, pending approval by the RCA. **NWPPA**

### Tacoma wins NHA award for Floating Fish Collector

**O**n April 26, Tacoma Power received its fifth-straight Outstanding Stewards of America’s Waters (OSAW) Award from the National Hydropower Association (NHA). The award, for Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement, honors the Floating Fish Collector at the Cushman Hydroelectric Project in Mason County.

The collector is attached to Cushman Dam No. 1; it gathers juvenile salmon migrating to the ocean. Once collected, they get a three-mile-long truck ride to Cushman Dam No. 2 and are released into the river below. It is a critical component in Tacoma Power’s overall efforts to help restore fish populations in the North Fork Skokomish River.

Tacoma Power collaborated with a variety of federal and state agencies and the Skokomish Indian Tribe to ensure they were satisfied with the collector’s design and goals.

“The NHA is thrilled to present Tacoma Power with the OSAW Award for Recreational, Environmental & Historical Enhancement,” said **Linda Church Ciocci**, executive director, NHA. “The Floating Fish Collector is a reflection of Tacoma Power’s commitment to the community, sustainability, and the environment.” **NWPPA**

### PCWA receives award for conservation efforts

**F**or the third consecutive year, the Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.) received the California Municipal Utilities Association’s (CMUA) Best Water Program award. PCWA Director of Customer Service **Matt Young** unveiled the award at the PCWA Board of Directors meeting on April 21.

“We are thrilled to be recognized by CMUA for our outreach efforts during the drought,” Young said. “Ultimately the award recognizes the responsiveness of our customers, and the Agency’s longstanding commitment to wise stewardship.”

CMUA’s Best Water Program award recognizes innovative programs that promote the efficient use of water. Submissions were scored on several factors, including program originality, applicability to other water utilities, and benefits to the community.

General Manager **Einar Maisch** said, “Receiving this award for a third time is a tremendous honor. I applaud the leadership of our board of directors and hard-working staff who guided us through a difficult year.” **NWPPA**

### PUD 3’s financial strength affirmed

**M**ason PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.) has received another indicator of the strength of its financial management. Standard and Poor’s Rating Services (S&P) announced on April 14 that it has affirmed PUD 3’s bond rating as A+/stable.

“We’re excited by the affirmation of the excellent financial health of Mason PUD 3,” said **Annette Creekpau**m, PUD manager. “This independent evaluation shows that our staff pays close attention to managing our customers’ investment in the reliability of our local electricity distribution and telecommunications systems.”

The A+ Standard and Poor’s rating shows that PUD 3 bonds are strong investments. Coupled with a 2010 Moody’s Investment rating of AA3, PUD 3’s bond ratings are considered high-grade.

PUD 3 has won 11 consecutive Government Finance Officers Association awards of excellence for its annual reports. The utility’s operations are inspected annually by the Washington State Auditor’s Office and have not been subject to a finding in over 36 years. **NWPPA**

## Clark recognizes two for 35 years of service

Clark Public Utilities (Vancouver, Wash.) recognized two employees, **Travis Hefely** and **Arvo Heiskari**, with 35-year service awards at a board meeting on May 24.

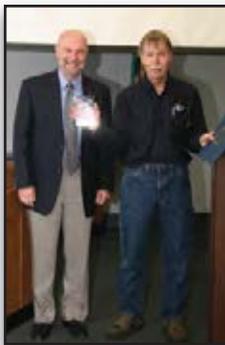
Hefely, a substation working foreman, joined the utility at 18 years old in 1980 as a facilities groundshelter. He then moved to the meter and energy services departments before entering the apprentice lineman program in Operations. Hefely became a journeyman lineman in 1994 and then joined the substation group in Technical Services. In May 2004, Hefely began a new position as a substation working foreman and continues in that position today.

A dispatch serviceman for more than a decade, Heiskari started in the utility's Engineering department after graduating from the University of Portland with a degree in electrical engineering. In 1989 he moved to Operations as a groundman and worked his way through the apprentice lineman program. He became a journeyman lineman in 1993 and is now part of the utility's team of first responders as a serviceman in Dispatch.

Commissioners thanked Hefely and Heiskari for their many years of service to the customers of Clark Public Utilities. **NWPPA**



*(L-R) Clark Director of Engineering Cal Morris and Travis Hefely.*



*Clark Director of Operations Dan Krebs and Arvo Heiskari.*

## Okanogan PUD will generate power at Enloe Dam

During the regular Okanogan County PUD (Okanogan, Wash.) Board of Commissioners meeting on May 9, the commissioners unanimously approved Resolution #1620 authorizing the District to generate electricity from Enloe Dam.

After lengthy public testimony from parties representing both electrification and removal of Enloe Dam, and reviewing all the options presented to date from staff, the Okanogan County PUD Board of Commissioners determined that adding generation to Enloe Dam is in the best interests of the District's ratepayers and has directed staff to proceed in developing a plan to add generation to the dam.

Stakeholders and opponents to generation of Enloe Dam were provided an opportunity to speak during the April 25, 2016, regular board of commissioners meeting. During this meeting they were to offer evidence of a lead agency that would take all responsibility and liability for the removal of Enloe Dam, as well as a firm source of funding that would pay for all costs associated with the removal and a draft plan for removal. After an hour of testimony during that meeting, the group failed to produce a lead agency or any of the required terms.

District staff has continually presented information to the commissioners that demonstrated the District will require additional generation resources during the term of the FERC license and the estimated cost of Enloe Dam will be equal to or less than other alternative generation resources. The commissioners further directed staff to work with Energy Northwest to develop the most cost-effective plan to construct generation facilities for the Enloe Dam project. **NWPPA**

## EWEB commissioners select new GM

On May 26, Eugene Water & Electric Board commissioners selected **Frank Lawson** to lead Oregon's largest public utility as its next general manager.

Commissioners unanimously tendered a conditional job offer to Lawson, who currently serves as EWEB's electric systems engineering supervisor. He was picked from among four finalists for the job to replace **Roger Gray**, who left EWEB in April to head a public utility association in Portland.

"Frank will bring a fresh new perspective to the challenges and opportunities facing EWEB, now and into the future," said EWEB Commissioner and Board President **John Simpson**.

Simpson added that Lawson's combination of experience at a public utility and in the private sector, as well as his "entrepreneurial approach to decision-making and passion for transparent, inclusive management" will greatly benefit the utility and its customers.

Lawson has worked at EWEB since 2010 in his current position and as interim strategic planning manager in 2014. Prior to EWEB, he was electrical engineering manager at Jeld-Wen, a wood-products manufacturing company; served as vice president of marketing and engineering at a division of Danaher Corp., a worldwide manufacturing and technology company; and held several positions at Eurotherm, which makes industrial control equipment for electric and water utilities as well as other industries.

He is a graduate of Oregon State University, with a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering. In 2015, he received a master's of business administration degree from Northwest Christian University. **NWPPA**

### Jackson promoted to GM of Brown & Kysar

**B**rown & Kysar, Inc. (BKI) announced that **Eddie Jackson** has been promoted to general manager of the company. Jackson has 16 years of experience being the engineering and operations manager of both a municipality and a cooperative. BKI is pleased to have him in this seat!

The decision comes after four months of reviewing internal and external candidates to backfill for **Rick Vermeers**, who will be retiring this year. Vermeers will continue to fulfill the role of engineering manager and account manager until a replacement is hired.

Brown & Kysar is a consulting firm that serves small- to mid-sized public utilities in the Pacific Northwest. For more information, visit [www.bki.cc](http://www.bki.cc). **NWPPA**



### POWER Engineers announces new CEO

**T**he POWER Engineers Board of Directors has appointed **Bret Moffett** as CEO of the firm, effective May 19, 2016. Moffett has served as POWER's president for the past year and will continue those responsibilities as he assumes the additional role of CEO.

He will be POWER's third leader in the firm's 40-year history. **Jack Hand** has served as the CEO and a member of POWER's board of directors for the last 19 years.

"Our succession planning was well thought out and has been purposefully executed," said Hand. "Our board of directors, shareholders, and leadership team all strongly support the selection of Bret as our new CEO. We are excited to see the next chapter unfold."

With this transition, Hand will move into the role of chairman. As chairman, he will focus on shareholder outreach, government relations, business development for mega-energy projects, and POWER's international business.

"We have an incredible team at POWER," said Moffett. "I'm energized, excited, and more than a little humbled to be part of this great organization."

POWER Engineers offers complete multidiscipline engineering and program management services. For more information, please visit [www.powereng.com](http://www.powereng.com). **NWPPA**

### H&M Group established as new parent holding company

**C**hairman, President, and CEO **T. Roderick Henkels** announced the formation of **Henkels & McCoy Group, Inc.**, as the new parent holding company of **Henkels & McCoy, Inc.**, recently formed **HMI Services, Inc.**, and **H&M Shared Services, Inc.** The formation of the holding company was conducted to enable future growth and to better serve its utility infrastructure customers nationally. HMI Services, through its subsidiary companies **HMI Technical Solutions** and **HMI Communications**, will provide solutions for its customers in new and expanding geographic markets throughout the United States.

**Henkels & McCoy Group, Inc. (H&M Group)** 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**

### Red•Dot® product protects electrical devices

**T**he **Red•Dot® Stainless Steel While-In-Use Box and Cover System**, new from **Thomas & Betts (T&B)**, protects electrical devices in harsh environments, including those that are susceptible to liquid ingress and corrosion. The **National Electrical Code® (NEC®)** requires that electrical wiring devices used in wet locations be protected, even when the cord is plugged into the receptacle. Requirements for outlet box covers have become stricter in recent years in response to demands for durability, especially in high-traffic areas.

The **Red•Dot Stainless Steel While-In-Use Box and Cover System** is a solution that complies with **NEC** and **UL®** requirements for "extra-duty" outlet box covers installed in locations that require wash-down maintenance. The product also is **NSF** certified.

**Thomas & Betts Corporation**, a member of the **ABB Group**, is a global leader in the design, manufacture, and marketing of essential components used to manage the connection, distribution, transmission, and reliability of electrical power in utility, industrial, commercial, and residential applications. For more information, please visit [www.tnb.com](http://www.tnb.com) or call (800) 238-5000. **NWPPA**



## FCS GROUP welcomes Manville

**A** utility industry expert in asset management, system integrations, and GIS, **Juston Manville** has joined FCS GROUP as the asset management practice lead. Manville has worked extensively in government sector asset and emergency management, software development, and database design. He works with clients to effectively bridge technology gaps and solve big picture utility business challenges — helping them get where they want to go.

He will be working from the firm's Lake Oswego, Ore., office and can be contacted at [justonm@fcsgroup.com](mailto:justonm@fcsgroup.com).

FCS GROUP, established in 1988, provides utility finance, management consulting, and economic and cost recovery services to public sector clients inclusive of city and county governments; municipal corporations and ports; special purpose districts; and state agencies. For more information, please visit [www.fcsgroup.com](http://www.fcsgroup.com) or email [info@fcsgroup.com](mailto:info@fcsgroup.com). **NWPPA**

## Megger releases Multi-phase Relay Test System

**M**egger's new SMRT46D Multi-phase Relay Test System expands your testing abilities by adding a fourth voltage channel, giving you another game-changing tool to help you get your job done faster and more efficiently. A fourth voltage channel can provide a synchronizing reference voltage, or serve as a battery simulator. With the voltage channels converted to currents, a three-channel unit can provide six currents for testing three-phase current differential relays, including harmonic restraint transformer differential relays.

The added capabilities of the SMRT46D can be expanded upon even further when paired with Megger's full family of SMRT Relay Test Sets. Our SMRT Relay Test Sets are designed to work together, allowing you to combine multiple units to ensure our test sets will meet your every need, regardless of the application.

All of this functionality can be controlled either manually via the built-in touchscreen user interface on the SMRT46D, or placed under full computer control via the AVTS (advanced visual testing software) or the RTMS (relay test management software) running on a PC. The built-in user interface, called the Smart Touch-View Interface™, is Megger's second generation of automatic/semi-automatic manual user interface running the new RTMS software.

Megger designs and manufactures portable electrical test equipment. Megger products help you install, improve efficiency, reduce cost, and extend the life of your or your customers' electrical assets. For more information, visit <http://us.megger.com/>. **NWPPA**

## Novinium appoints Engman as new CFO

**L**ast month, Novinium® announced that it has hired **Jon Engman** as its new chief financial officer. Engman has over 20 years of experience leading high-tech companies experiencing rapid growth in both revenue and enterprise value. Previously he held executive leadership positions at DayDials, Sesame Communications, Saflink, and several Paul Allen companies.



“We are very fortunate to have found such a creative, experienced, and operationally strong executive for our rapidly expanding company,” said **Glen Bertini**, CEO of Novinium.

Novinium's patented injection process rejuvenates and extends the reliable life of cable up to 40 years. Further information is available at [www.novinium.com](http://www.novinium.com). **NWPPA**

## Obama visits ABB booth in Germany

**G**erman Chancellor **Angela Merkel** and U.S. President **Barack Obama** were the first to experience ABB's groundbreaking new smart sensor at the Hanover Fair on April 25.



*(L-R) German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.S. President Barack Obama, ABB CEO Ulrich Spiesshofer, and ABB Americas Region President Greg Scheu.*

The two leaders were shown how ABB's smart sensor can improve the productivity of hundreds of millions of electric motors by connecting them for the first time to cloud-based services.

“The smart sensor enables transcontinental industrial digitalization,” said ABB CEO **Ulrich Spiesshofer**. “The sensor reduces the downtime of motors by up to 70 percent, extends their life span by up to 30 percent, and cuts energy consumption by as much as 10 percent. If all industrial electric motors worldwide were equipped with our smart sensors, the energy savings would be equivalent to the output of 100 large power plants.”

ABB ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) is a leading global technology company in power and automation that enables utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. **NWPPA**

by Nicole Case

# Energy, wildfires, and drones dominated the agenda in Washington, D.C.



*Every year, representatives of NWPPA's consumer-owned utility members travel to the seat of our nation to meet with members of Congress, key staff, and the Administration, while carrying our unique Northwest messages on federal policy issues affecting our membership.*

For the last several years, the last week of April has been the week of NWPPA's Annual Federal Policy Conference and Rally. Jointly held with the Northern California Power Agency, this meeting in Washington, D.C., is the highlight of NWPPA's Legislative & Regulatory program.

Every year, representatives of NWPPA's consumer-owned utility members travel to the seat of our nation to meet with members of Congress, key staff, and the Administration, while carrying our unique Northwest messages on federal policy issues affecting our membership.

This year, 19 representatives of NWPPA's member utilities made up the Association's delegation. These representatives came from a majority of the states within which NWPPA has members, ensuring a broad cross section of general managers and utility board members. Led by NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker, and guided by myself, Deborah Sliz, and her staff at Morgan Meguire, we held 43 meetings with members of Congress, their staff, and Administration officials.

This year, the timing of our trip could not have been better! The week before our arrival, the Senate passed a bipartisan energy bill, one that Senate Energy Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) worked tirelessly to pass. Passage of the bill, which the committee had worked on since January 2015, was held up on the Senate floor for weeks due to negotiations on aid to the residents of Flint, Mich., the site of the horrific municipal water disaster. With the House of Representatives having passed its own version of the bill last year, Congress needed to enter into a conference to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills to find common ground.

A conference on the energy bill, we learned, is easier said than done. In our Monday briefing by key Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, we learned that the differences between the House and Senate Energy bills could delay or indefinitely postpone a conference. Provisions supported by NWPPA, such as streamlining hydropower relicensing and providing certainty to utilities in efforts to manage vegetation on rights of way over federal lands, continue to be controversial. It was also clear that partisan politics were at play as the House bill needed more support from House Democrats while the Senate passed a bipartisan energy bill. Unfortunately for NWPPA and others, the divide between the House and Senate on the energy bill may be too deep to produce a final bill.

Legislation to modernize hydropower relicensing remains a top issue for NWPPA. Many of our members have struggled to relicense their hydropower projects, whether existing or new, under the current process. One NWPPA member has spent the last seven years attempting to site a new five-megawatt hydro project; that project isn't estimated to be complete for another five years. In the meantime, the utility has sited and initiated operation on two gas-fired generating projects for 88 megawatts; the process to site and construct one of the gas plants took five years. The stories are similar for other NWPPA members attempting to license or relicense hydropower projects. For NWPPA members and many other utilities across the country, hydropower relicensing reform depends on a successful conference on the energy bill.

Similarly, streamlining and providing utilities with certainty in permitting vegetation management on rights of way over federal lands is also an important legislative issue that could be resolved in an energy bill conference. NWPPA recently approved a resolution supporting the vegetation management provisions in the House energy bill. Originating as House Bill 2358 and introduced by Representatives Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) and Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.), the Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention bill would establish a process to provide electric utilities with timely responses to permit requests to manage vegetation in and along rights of way over federal land. Utilities would also be provided liability protection if federal agencies fail to respond to requests in a timely manner.

As the summer approaches, how to fund and manage

wildfires is also a top issue for NWPPA's Congressional delegation. NWPPA supports funding suppression of wildfires as disasters, rather than using more and more of the Forest Service's land management budget for fire suppression. Wildfires have become a way of life in the West and with more Forest Service funding being used to suppress raging fires, less funding is available to carry out fire prevention. While the bulk of NWPPA's Congressional delegation supports this change in fire funding, partisan controversy over whether reforming broader forest management practices has stopped progress on this issue. Thus, it seems unlikely, this late in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, that wildfire disaster funding will become law.

During work in the Senate and House, a late-breaking issue on the use of drones by electric utilities arose on a bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). NWPPA supports use of drones by electric utilities as a way to increase electric reliability and safety of workers during everyday operations and after disasters, and met with several members of its Congressional delegation on this issue. The FAA strictly regulates use of drones, requiring utilities to get a waiver from its current rules and conditions, such as line of sight and pilot license requirements, which make it difficult for electric utilities to get the most value from the use of drones.

A coalition of the three national electric utility associations — American Public Power Association (APPA), Edison Electric Institute, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association — jointly supported the addition of legislative language to the Senate FAA bill to support the use of drones to restore critical infrastructure. In addition, APPA is also seeking report language to the House FAA reauthorization bill that would allow the FAA to recognize public utility districts and municipal electric utilities as “governmental entities.” This designation would allow PUDs and municipal utilities to file for a waiver as governmental entities.

NWPPA also urged Congressional support for funding municipal bonds and the rural utility service, and shared first-hand experiences on the importance of having both funding alternatives available to consumer-owned electric utilities. After the last few years of attempts to tax the interest on municipal bonds, NWPPA's Congressional delegation assured us that Congress will not take up this issue again. The response from state and local governments across the country that rely on tax-exempt bonds to fund critical infrastructure and equipment was so strongly opposed that this issue is dead for the foreseeable future.

Finally, NWPPA raised continuing concerns with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan, a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants; and the Waters of the U.S. rule, which would broaden the reach of the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to regulate activities on or near additional bodies of water, including intermittent streams, under the Clean Water Act. Both of these rules are currently being chal-

lenged in federal courts, with the Clean Power Plan almost guaranteed a review by the Supreme Court. NWPPA reminded its delegation of its concern with both plans and the impact to the cost of electricity in the communities they represent depending on how those plans are implemented.

NWPPA

*Nicole Case is NWPPA's legislative consultant and can be contacted at [nicole@nwppa.org](mailto:nicole@nwppa.org).*



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# The evolution of Columbia Basin Hydropower and what it means for neighboring utilities



**T**he earliest recorded activity proposing the development of an irrigation project in the Big Bend area of the Columbia River began in 1903. For many years proponents of such an undertaking promoted the construction of a large irrigation project. Actual construction began in 1933 with the start of Grand Coulee Dam; construction continued during the ensuing half-century. Planning and construction of the project was carried out by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. The project plans to ultimately irrigate 1,095,000 acres and presently provides water to 671,000 acres.

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District, and South Columbia Basin Irrigation District were formed in 1939 and acted as spokespersons for respective landowners in dealing with the Bureau of Reclamation. On December 18, 1968, the Bureau of Reclamation transferred the operations and maintenance responsibilities for certain project irrigation and drainage systems to the districts. The transfer documents are commonly referred to as the “1968 Amendatory Repayment Contracts.”

In May 1980, the boards of directors of the three districts entered into an agreement for the development, operation, and maintenance of hydroelectric generating facilities to be developed on the irrigation systems of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). The agreement created the Grand Coulee Project Hydroelectric Authority (GCPHA) to develop, operate, and maintain hydroelectric projects within the CBP. The GCPHA has the rights and obligations to perform the power development responsibilities as the agent and the representative of the districts. Last March, the board of directors of the GCPHA changed the entity’s name to Columbia Basin Hydropower (CB Hydropower) and established its business headquarters in Ephrata, Wash.

CB Hydropower is governed by a board of six directors. Each district appoints two members to the board and each member must be a director of the district. Each board member is appointed at the first regular meeting in January of the board of directors.

### **The rebrand**

Our new name signifies a move to rebrand and differentiate the organization from the Bureau of Reclamation. The old name created confusion because people consistently considered our organization as part of Grand Coulee Dam; the fact that we worked in a Reclamation building compounded that confusion. With the new name, we signify our autonomy and highlight that we are a subdivision of the three irrigation districts that make up the CBP.

As the GCPHA, we did not have a website or much recognition in the power community; we were heavily involved in the water community. As CB Hydropower, we have become more active in the Northwest Hydroelectric Association and are raising our profile through existing trade and utility associations. We have also established a website ([www.cbhydropower.org](http://www.cbhydropower.org)) to raise our visibility and highlight our history, as well as emphasize the opportunities before us.

### **Current projects**

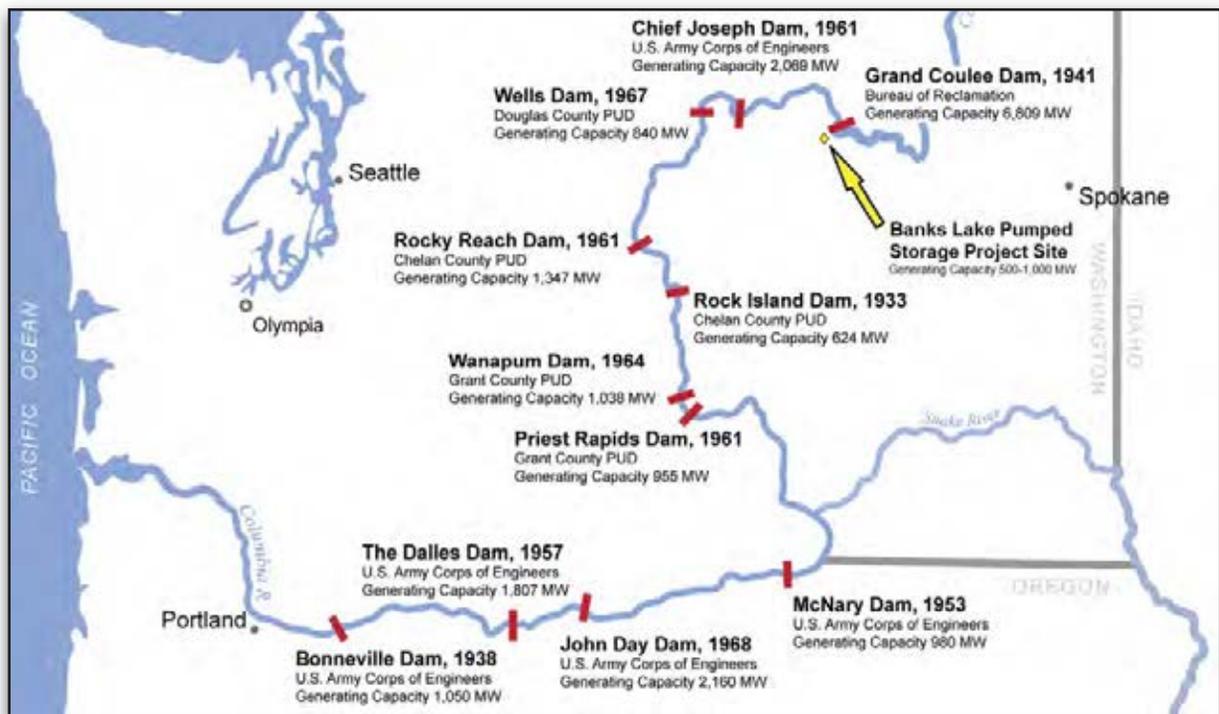
CB Hydropower operates and maintains five power developments (Main Canal Headworks, Summer Falls, Russell D. Smith, Eltopia Branch Canal 4.6, and Potholes East Canal 66.0 [PEC] Headworks) and serves as liaison to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks.

CB Hydropower does not have authority to act as a utility, so it sells wholesale. The five projects that we operate supply power to the Cities of Seattle and Tacoma. The energy output from the other two projects, Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks, goes to Grant County Public Utilities District.

### **Project updates**

There is an opportunity for CB Hydropower to develop incremental sites with the onset of recent small hydropower legislation and associated funding opportunities. We have identified four conduit-type sites and one large pumped storage project adjacent to Grand Coulee Dam and the existing Keys Pumping Plant.

*Continued on page 28*



Above is a graphic of the major hydropower dams on the Columbia River. All graphics provided by Columbia Basin Hydropower.

We have been meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to address those operation concerns and constraints, most of which we modeled in our analysis of the projects. We have agreed to dedicate staff members to discuss the time required and cost to model incorporating a new pumped storage project into the mix with Grand Coulee Dam and the Keys Pumped Storage Plant. Also, in our internal modeling of the project we included the known constraints that exist currently at Lake Roosevelt and Banks Lake. We will continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation and BPA to alleviate operational concerns.

We recently finished our first round of marketing efforts in the region and have been making a number of presentations in and around the Northwest. Initial reaction to the project has for the most part been positive, with some of the utilities expressing an interest to know more as we proceed through the regulatory process. That is one of the big hurdles for a project this large and is complicated enough if it was just a FERC licensing process, but this project will require a FERC license as well as a Lease of Power Privilege with the Bureau of Reclamation. The real challenge here is that the timelines and requirements are not the same and we will continue to work to alleviate as much duplication of process as we can with their committed cooperation.

We are also assessing available technologies to facilitate the development of the conduit sites. Two of the sites likely would use conventional hydropower, and two would employ low-head hydropower technology. CB Hydropower

is in talks with Natel Energy to work on those low-head sites. We have visited Natel's first installation site in Oregon and are currently exchanging data to determine the feasibility of hydropower on the proposed sites.

Additionally, we are waiting for Reclamation to release preliminary assessment data on a number of sites in the Columbia River basin. We think there will be 30 to 50 more sites worth investigating for conduit projects. That is why we are seeking out technology that we can replicate, and why we have reached out to Natel.

### North Dam project

There has been a lot of interest in pumped storage projects, which often require new reservoirs and bring accompanying environmental issues. The North Dam project would use Lake Roosevelt and Banks Lake, two huge reservoirs that have long, sustained peaking capabilities, to produce 500 megawatts of power. While most pump storage projects only cycle water for a number of hours a day, the North Dam project would have up to 70 hours of sustained peaking capability. The project provides power support, capacity, and frequency regulation. This project provides all of the attributes that utilities consider ancillary and flexibility resources.

When we originally filed for the North Dam site, Reclamation wrote a strong letter to FERC opposing development of the site due to concerns about operational disruptions. We believe we have alleviated those concerns, and at this point in time, Reclamation is working cooperatively

with us on the project. We now meet with BPA and the Bureau of Reclamation on a monthly basis to try to keep this project moving forward.

We have been back to Washington, D.C., twice to discuss the project. The U.S. Department of Energy has a large sum of money available in its loan program that would significantly impact the financial viability of this project.

The Northwest's federal hydropower system flexibility is near full capacity. The variable speed pumps of the proposed North Dam are projected to run at 80-percent efficiency, which are 15–20 percent more efficient than the pumping technology used currently at Keys Pumping Plant at Grand Coulee Dam. Pump storage projects are net energy users. For example, Keys pumps water from Roosevelt into Banks Lake, priming the entire Columbia River basin system. It is old and needs significant investment in rehabilitation; Department of Energy funds might be better spent on a new plant.

We are encouraged that this project would qualify for the low-interest loans with the Department of Energy and make the project much more attractive economically. Also while in Washington, D.C., we were able to meet with some of Washington state's delegation members about this pumped storage project and they were encouraging and supportive, and expressed a desire to help move this project forward in a positive way.

CB Hydropower's next steps on the North Dam project are to continue the dialogue with Reclamation and BPA, and to market the project across the region, especially to those utilities that will have peaking needs in the early 2020s.

The region is forecasting a need for a significant level of capacity resources in the early to mid-2020s. That along with the retirement of two baseload thermal resources (Centralia and Boardman); the likelihood that importing coal-fired generation from Colstrip 1 and 2 will end in the same timeframe; and with what looks like a significant increase to West Coast renewable resource requirements demonstrates the need for grid-level capacity resources.

### Looking to the future

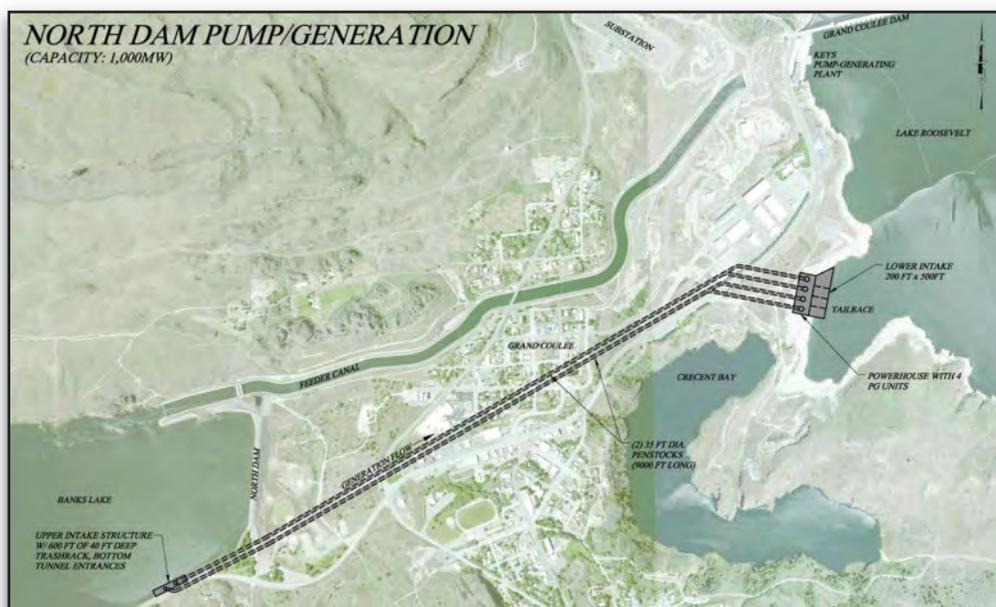
As the region looks forward to energy imbalance markets, increased renewable portfolio requirements, and loss of baseload capacity, the region will need more storage and capacity to provide storage, capacity, and the ancillary services that the

*CB Hydropower's next steps on the North Dam project are to continue the dialogue with Reclamation and BPA, and to market the project across the region, especially to those utilities that will have peaking needs in the early 2020s.*

Columbia River Hydropower system has provided to the region for the past 50 years. We believe that this project can provide just what will be needed in the next 8 to 10 years for the region.

Our next steps are to continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation, BPA, FERC, and other interested parties and we continue our efforts to move this project forward. We will be filing a request to FERC later this month (June) for an extension to our preliminary permit as well as exploring options to avoid the dual jurisdiction issues that exist with the Bureau of Reclamation and FERC. **NWPPA**

*Tim Culbertson is the secretary-manager of Columbia Basin Hydropower. He can be reached at (509) 754-2227 or TCulbertson@cbhydropower.org. An earlier version of this article first appeared in the September 2015 issue of Irrigation Leader.*



*Pictured is a preliminary design of Columbia Basin Hydropower's North Dam Project, which is located at the North Dam of Banks Lake in central Washington state near Grand Coulee Dam.*

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

**POSITION: Senior Apparatus Transmission & Distribution Specialist**

COMPANY: PacifiCorp (Portland, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$78,800-\$101,600 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [https://pacificorp.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=160623&lang=en&csns\\_id=mailto](https://pacificorp.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=160623&lang=en&csns_id=mailto).

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**

COMPANY: Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc. (Glennallen, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$47.10 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2016.  
TO APPLY: A complete application packet is available at <http://www.cvea.org> in the Careers section. The CVEA application is required to be considered for the position.

**POSITION: GIS Analyst**

COMPANY: Cowlitz PUD (Longview, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$4,853-\$6,032 monthly.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Complete the District's application, which can be found at [www.cowlitzpud.org](http://www.cowlitzpud.org), and provide a cover letter, resumé, sample map, and answers to the supplemental questions.

**POSITION: System Operator Trainee — Dispatch #85252**

COMPANY: Puget Sound Energy (Bellevue, Wash.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 19, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.pse.com/careers.3](http://www.pse.com/careers.3)

**POSITION: Engineering Technician II**

COMPANY: Homer Electric Association, Inc. (Homer, Alaska)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 19, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Applications may be completed online at <http://homerelectric.applicantpro.com>. If you require alternative means to complete this application, please contact [hr@homerelectric.com](mailto:hr@homerelectric.com) for assistance.

**POSITION: Relayman**

COMPANY: Snohomish County PUD No. 1 (Everett, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$52.77 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 20, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Complete the online application and submit cover letter and resumé at [www.snopud.com](http://www.snopud.com).

**POSITION: Hydro Maintenance Supervisor (Electrical)**

COMPANY: Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.)  
SALARY: \$92,389-\$117,915 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Detailed recruitment information and online application can be found at [www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net).

**POSITION: Working Fleet Supervisor**

COMPANY: Midstate Electric Cooperative (La Pine, Ore.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 24, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Submit cover letter with resumé to Human Resources, Midstate Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739, fax (541) 536-1423, or email to [ststreeter@mse.coop](mailto:ststreeter@mse.coop). No phone calls will be accepted.

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineworker**

COMPANY: Salem Electric (Salem, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$47.39 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 24, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Submit a resumé and cover letter to [se@salemelectric.com](mailto:se@salemelectric.com), fax to (503) 371-2956, or mail to P.O. Box 5588, Salem, OR 97304.

**POSITION: Geo Industrial Controls Technician/Operator**

COMPANY: Northern California Power Agency — Geothermal Facility (Middletown, Calif.)  
SALARY: \$39.51-\$54.67 per hour, DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 25, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.ncpa.com](http://www.ncpa.com).

**POSITION: Senior Accountant**

COMPANY: Kittitas PUD No. 1 (Ellensburg, Wash.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 27, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Submit an application and resumé to Kittitas PUD, Attn. Human Resources, 1400 Vantage Hwy., Ellensburg, WA 98926, or apply online at [www.kittitaspud.com](http://www.kittitaspud.com).

**POSITION: Engineering Manager**

COMPANY: Inland Power & Light (Spokane, Wash.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Send completed application, cover letter, and resumé to [hr@inlandpower.com](mailto:hr@inlandpower.com) or mail to Inland Power & Light Company, 10110 W. Hallett Rd., Spokane WA 99224-7435, Attn: Human Resources.

**POSITION: Electric Meter Technician**

COMPANY: Eugene Water and Electric Board (Eugene, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$45.28 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2016.  
TO APPLY: For additional information or to apply, go to <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/eweb/default.cfm>.

**POSITION: Director/Manager Information Technology and Telecommunications**

COMPANY: Pend Oreille County PUD (Newport, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$85,000-\$135,000 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 1, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Application and detailed job description are available at [www.popud.org](http://www.popud.org). Please email the application, along with a resumé and cover letter, including salary requirements, to [careers@popud.org](mailto:careers@popud.org); or mail application materials to P.O. Box 190, Newport WA 99156, Attn. Human Resources.

**POSITION: Journeyman Lineman**

COMPANY: Lakeview Light & Power (Lakewood, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$44.77 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 2, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Submit application, resumé, and cover letter to Derise Warner at [dwarner@lakeviewlight.com](mailto:dwarner@lakeviewlight.com) or mailed to Lakeview Light & Power, 11509 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood, WA 98499, Attn. Derise Warner. Application available at [www.lakeviewlight.com](http://www.lakeviewlight.com).

**POSITION: Manager of Engineering**

COMPANY: Brown & Kysar, Inc. (Battle Ground, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$103,000+ annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 5, 2016.  
TO APPLY: Forward your resumé and cover letter to [employment@bki.cc](mailto:employment@bki.cc).

**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, Koppel, 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 Meterman  
**COMPANY:** City of Ketchikan (Ketchikan, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$36.47 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Job description and application available at [www.ktn-ak.us/jobs](http://www.ktn-ak.us/jobs) or contact [mariem@ktn-ak.us](mailto:mariem@ktn-ak.us), (907) 228-5631.

**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:** Electrical Engineer  
**COMPANY:** Jefferson County Public Utility District (Port Townsend, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$95,000-\$110,000 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** To apply online, visit Prothman at <http://www.prothman.com/>,

click on "Submit Your Application," and follow the directions provided. Application materials will only be accepted electronically via the website.

**POSITION:** Staking Engineer  
**COMPANY:** Klickitat PUD (Goldendale, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Applications and a detailed job description are available online at [www.klickpud.com](http://www.klickpud.com) and at the Goldendale Klickitat PUD Office. Submit your resumé and application to Klickitat PUD, c/o Human Resources, 1313 S. Columbus, Goldendale, WA 98620, or by fax at (509) 773-7449.

**POSITION:** Manager of Finance and Administration  
**COMPANY:** Skamania PUD No. 1 (Carson, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** DOQ.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Please forward your resumé with cover letter and application via email to [jjackson@skamaniapud.com](mailto:jjackson@skamaniapud.com). Resumé packets may also be submitted to Skamania County PUD No. 1, Human Resources Department., P.O. Box 500, Carson, WA 98610. **NWPPA**

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