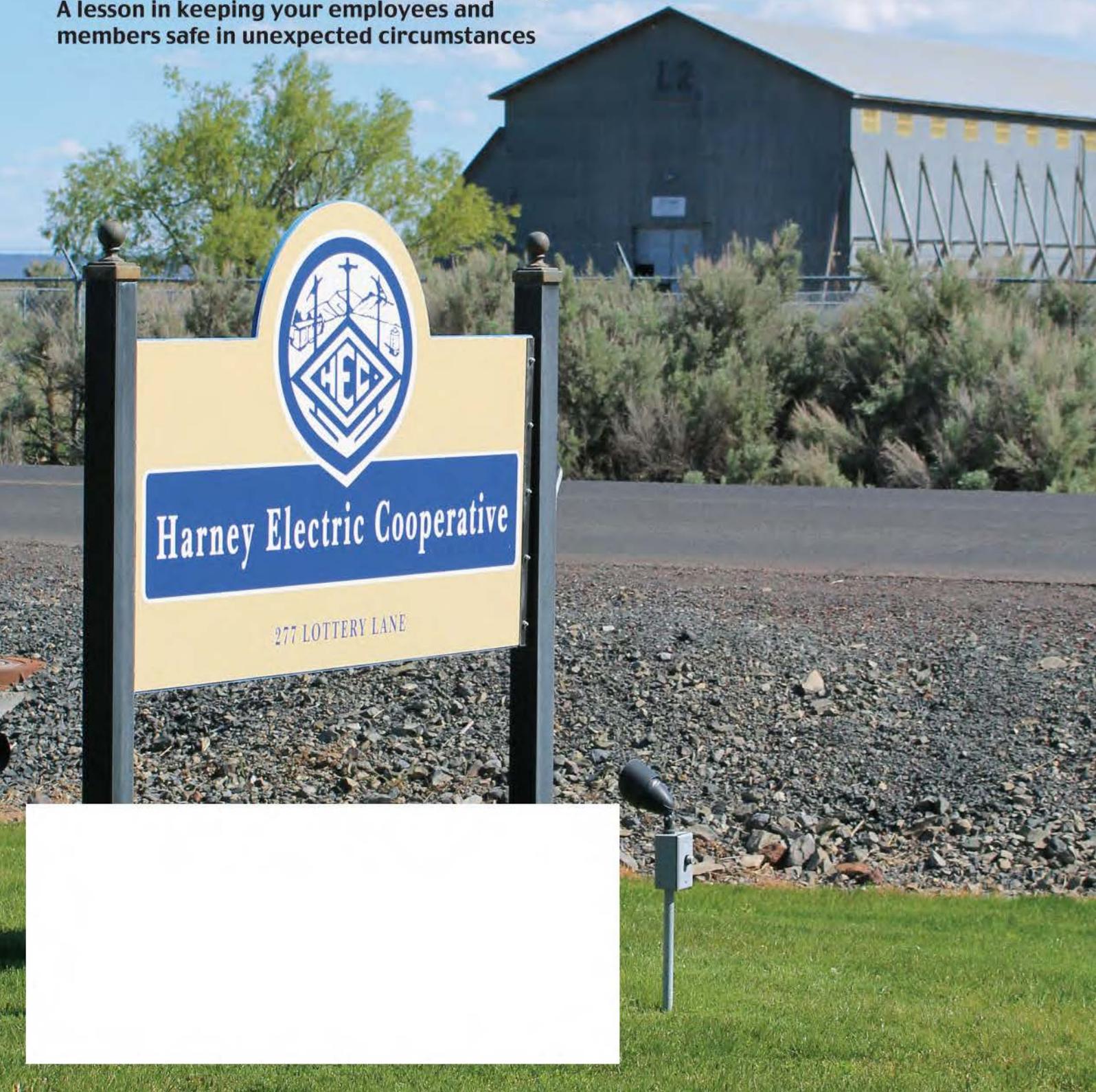


Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**

May 2016
Volume 70, Number 5

Harney Electric, Randy Whitaker, and the Malheur Occupation

**A lesson in keeping your employees and
members safe in unexpected circumstances**





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On the cover: On January 2, 2016, several militia groups moved into rural Harney County, Ore. Media around the country referred to the standoff as the Malheur Occupation. Unbeknownst to many, Harney Electric Cooperative, helmed by Randy Whitaker, became quite involved in the situation. Whitaker sat down with NWPPA to talk about the incident, his concerns about keeping his staff and members safe, and his lessons learned from a very unusual — and frightening — 42 days. Photo by Heather Bailey, HEC.

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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Our public power community connected at the 2016 E&O

It was a celebration of community, connection, and learning at last month's Engineering & Operations Conference & Trade Show in Spokane, Wash. 2016 E&O Committee Chair and Central Lincoln PUD Fleet Specialist Bob Cusick skillfully wove the *Public Power: Committed to Our Communities* theme throughout the week-long event. Attendees first heard the theme at Tuesday's general session when opening keynote speaker Mike Robbins talked about being a true champion through gratitude and appreciation in all aspects of life. At the end of the week, Cusick and the committee really drove the message home; at Thursday evening's banquet, the committee and NWPPA, in lieu of decorations for the banquet, used the budgeted decorations money to donate a check to representatives of SNAP (Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners) and their energy assistance program. Our members' generosity was astounding! Via donation containers on the dinner tables, we raised another \$1,600 to donate to SNAP that evening. Conference attendees and vendors truly connected with the community this year!

In addition to the general sessions and awards banquet, the conference hosted approximately 30 learning sessions spanning eight core utility categories and three standing-room only hot topic sessions: *Carlson and Okanogan Complex Fires Case Study*, *Utility Impact from the Marijuana Industry*, and *Utility of the Future: Is Your Organization Ready?* NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker moderated Tuesday's always-popular CEO panel discussion of current issues that utilities are facing. On the panel were Fall River Electric's Bryan Case, Tacoma Power's Dolores Stegeman, Tillamook PUD's Ray Seiler, and Klickitat PUD's Ron Ihrig. Closing out the conference was Thursday's keynote speaker, Seth Guikema, who presented his modeling and forecasting mechanisms for predicting



Many conference sessions were standing-room only.

infrastructure damage during natural disasters and other large weather events.

Throughout the week, attendees, vendors, speakers, staff, and sponsors were able to stay on top of what was happening through NWPPA's newly launched conference app. The app wowed attendees and provided everything they needed: attendance lists, session locations, trade show times, and much more. NWPPA is excited to use the app again this month at the Annual Meeting and later in the year at the Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) in September.

And, of course, there was the trade show. This year over 200 vendors came to Spokane to network with clients, and exhibit their products and services to potential new clients. General Pacific won this year's Best Theme of Conference Award, Platt Electric Supply won Best Presentation of Product, and National Metering Technical

Continued on page 4



General Pacific won this year's Best Theme of Conference Award.



Platt Electric Supply won Best Presentation of Product.



National Metering Technical Services won Best Enthusiasm.



At the opening general session, NWPPA honored Bob White (here with NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker) for his 38 years of service to Tillamook PUD and NWPPA. White served as a past chair of the E&O, a member of the NWPPA Education Committee, and most recently an NWPPA instructor. He and his wife, Dorene, both retired from Tillamook PUD on April 29.



Employees accepted the 2016 NWPPA Safety Awards on behalf of their utilities at the 2016 E&O Conference and Trade Show in Spokane, Wash., on April 14.

Services won Best Enthusiasm. The winners will each receive one free standard booth in the 2017 E&O trade show.

In addition to the vendor awards, NWPPA presented several safety awards throughout the conference. First, on April 12 prior to the opening general session on Tuesday, E&O Safety Committee Chair Lance Hughes presented the Career Commitment to Safety Award to Benton PUD Utility Safety Coordinator Steve Frost. The Career Commitment to Safety Award recognizes one individual each year that has outstanding proficiency in safety; demonstrated leadership in safety in his or her utility and the industry; and has made a significant contribution to safety within the industry over his or her career.

Before Thursday's general session, NWPPA presented another employee award, the Safety Heroism Award, to two Clatskanie PUD employees. Clatskanie PUD Line Working Foreman Lonnie Marcum and Journeyman Lineman Darin Welter were recognized for their quick response and life-saving actions when they were informed that someone was out in flood waters and had been yelling for help. Using rescue techniques from their safety trainings, the linemen waded out up to their necks in the deep water and were able to safely bring the gentleman back to shore to awaiting medical personnel.

The final safety awards were presented at Thursday evening's banquet. Last year, the E&O Planning Committee chose to present the safety awards during the evening banquet for the first time (versus presenting them at a smaller afternoon session where they had traditionally been awarded) so that a larger crowd could recognize and congratulate the utilities for their commitments to safety. This year, employees again accepted the awards on behalf of their utilities on



Harold Backen Co-op Golf Tournament

June 25, 2016
Registration: 7 a.m.
Shotgun start: 8 a.m.

Diamond Woods Golf Club • Junction City, Oregon

Field limited to the first 128 registrants — first come, first served

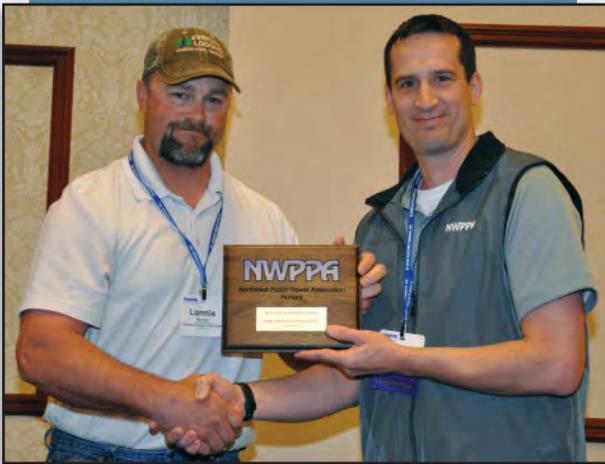
Title Sponsor:  **HJ Arnett Industries**

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For entry information and registration go to www.backentourney2016.com or contact Dave Sabala at (541) 680-6173 or dsabala@douglaelectric.com.



(L-R) 2016 E&O Safety Committee Chair Lance Hughes, Benton PUD Utility Safety Coordinator Steve Frost, Benton PUD General Manager Chad Bartram, and Benton PUD Assistant General Manager/Director of Operations Steve Hunter.



(L-R) Lonnie Marcum accepted the 2016 Safety Heroism Award for himself and Darin Welter from 2016 E&O Safety Committee Chair Lance Hughes.



These ladies were super excited for Tuesday night's grand opening of the trade show! (L-R) Jefferson PUD's Allison Dean, Cowlitz PUD's Michelle Marlowe, and Mason County No. 3's Koral Miller and Tina Ward.

WSU Vancouver engineering students visited the E&O



(L-R) Lenae Misiewicz, Rachel Campbell, Dave Nguyen, Richard Vallejo, and Dean Montgomery.

Last month at our 2016 Engineering & Operations Conference and Trade Show, five WSU Vancouver Campus IEEE Chapter student engineers joined nearly 1,000 utility professionals to learn from educational sessions, walk the trade show, and network with the public power community. Of the five students, there were three seniors, one junior, and one sophomore. Lenae Misiewicz, one of the seniors, will be working at Cowlitz PUD this summer and was able to meet some Cowlitz personnel at the conference. NWPPA was excited to have them all at the conference with us for the week. **NWPPA**

a large stage in front of nearly 300 attendees at the banquet.

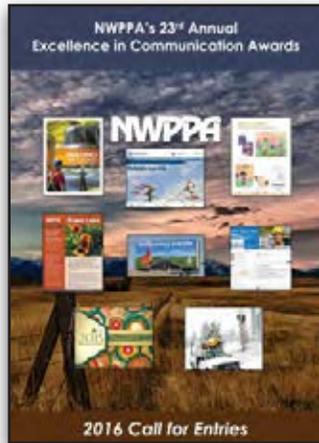
The safety contest awards are based upon a review of each utility's safety contest form, the number of recordable injury/illness cases (the incident rate) in 2015, and the lost work days (the severity rate) in 2015. For a complete list of the first-, second-, and third-place winners per category, please visit our website at www.nwppa.org.

For more photos from this year's conference and trade show, visit www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc.

Mark your calendars for the 2017 E&O in Reno, Nev., April 10-13, 2017. We hope to see you there! **NWPPA**

Eight tips for entering your best 2016 Excellence in Communication entries

Last month, utility communications employees and general managers should have received an emailed pdf and/or a hard copy of the 2016 Call for Entries for NWPPA's 23rd Annual Excellence in Communication Awards. If you did not receive one, you may download the complete brochure at www.nwppa.org; the Call for Entries can be found near the bottom of the Communications page under the Member Resources tab. All entries and fees must be post-marked by Friday, July 1.



After the entries have been received and logged, local industry and marketing experts will again judge the entries at the NWPPA office in July. The following tips combine the most common comments by judges, some insider tips from NWPPA, and information on this year's two new categories: Internal Communications and People's Choice. We hope these tips help — good luck!

1. Remember that the 2016 awards are for pieces produced in 2015. The two trickiest entries are **annual reports** and **calendars** (under the Special Publication category). For annual reports, verify that your submission was written and produced in 2015, not 2016, before dropping it in the mail; for most utilities, this means you will want to submit your 2014 Annual Report. Calendars are essentially the opposite: submit your 2016 calendar because that is most likely what you produced in 2015.
2. For **newsletters**, enter as many issues of a newsletter as possible — all as one entry. If you have a quarterly newsletter to retirees, submit all four as one entry; or if you have a monthly newsletter to members, submit all 12 as one entry. In other words, a June issue and an October issue of the same newsletter should not be two separate entries. Plus, judges love to see multiple examples of a publication so enter multiple issues when possible.
3. To alleviate confusion about what publications should be entered in which categories, we added a ninth category: **Internal Communications**. Use this category for anything that was produced for internal consumption: newsletters for employees, in-house informational pieces, training pieces, posters, flyers, PowerPoint presentations ... if it was produced in 2015 for your employees, enter it here.

4. A **statement of purpose** really helps judges understand the meaning and success of entries. The statements do not need to be lengthy, but if you can include an explanation of its purpose, the targeted audience, and its measured success, the judges really appreciate that information. Without that information, we often hear mumblings from the conference room that sound something like: "It's a nice looking brochure/bill insert/etc., but I don't know why they created it or what the utility did with it."
5. If you entered your **website** last year, yes, you can enter it again this year, assuming you have maintained it at some point during 2015. Be sure to briefly explain the updates to the website in an attached statement of purpose.
6. **Social media** accounts are best submitted as individual entries. If you have a Facebook and Twitter account that you use interchangeably, enter them separately as two entries. If you have a social media campaign that uses multiple platforms to convey the same message, NWPPA considers that an advertising campaign and it should be entered under Category 3.
7. **Photos** produced by apps and filters are acceptable, but they must be utility related. Short descriptions of the photos are requested, but are especially valuable when the photo is abstract and may need some explanation as to how it is related to the industry. This year's **People's Choice** award will be presented in the photography category, so send us your best one or two and be recognized by your peers at the Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC)!
8. Every entry must include a label attached to it; however, NWPPA only needs the **billing information** one time. Feel free to only write your credit card information on one form, or better yet, include it on a separate sheet of paper that can easily be shredded and recycled.



As in years past, the winning entries and utilities will be honored at Tuesday's evening reception at the NIC. This year the NIC returns to Montana after a 10-year hiatus; it will be held at the DoubleTree Edgewater in Missoula, September 11-14, 2016. Look for more information about the conference in upcoming *Bulletins*.

Contact Brenda Dunn at brenda@nwppa.org if you have any questions about the contest. **NWPPA**

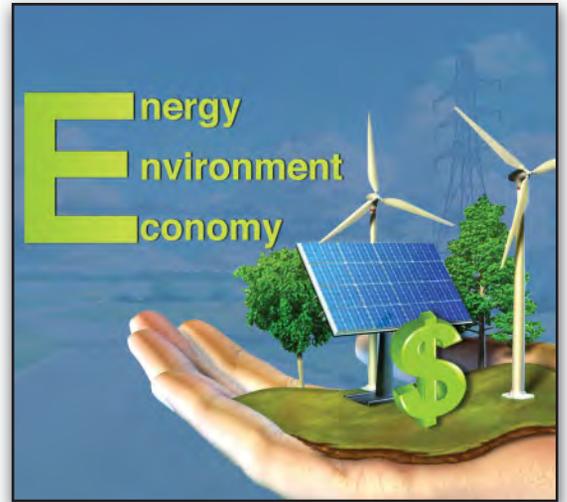
Power Supply Conference coming in August

May you live in interesting times is an applicable phrase for today's power resource professionals because the power supply landscape is changing like we have never seen in the careers of most industry employees. The shift is happening because of the social, regulatory, and customer push towards renewable power; the advances in distributed energy resource technology; markets; and the lowering cost of resources that were uneconomic only a few years ago. Coal-fired central power plants are phasing out, and a surge in solar and wind power has changed the landscape literally and figuratively.

On August 1-2, 2016, NWPPA will hold the 2016 Power Supply Conference in Portland, Ore., at the Marriott Portland Waterfront. Power supply professionals, general managers, policy makers, finance/rate department managers, and government and public affairs professionals will meet to hear speakers and panels on topics covering the changing state of power resource in the West.

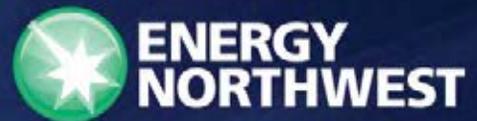
For more information and to register, please visit www.nwppa.org.

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NWPPA welcomes April Roma to the team

When you call the front desk at NWPPA, you will now be greeted by April Roma, our new administrative assistant. Roma started on April 11.

Roma previously worked as a financial aid counselor at Concordia University in Portland, Ore., and provided full-service financial aid counseling for undergraduate and graduate students. While there, she gained experience working in a non-profit environment within the higher education sector, and she is happy to continue working within another non-profit entity.



“NWPPA seems like a great non-profit organization that works closely with its community,” she said. “Everyone works together to create a great training organization for its members working in the public utilities industry.”

Raised in Forest Grove, Ore., she earned her Bachelor of Science in business management from Linfield College nearby in McMinnville, Ore. During her free time, she enjoys hiking with her two dogs and spending time in her garden.

Roma’s primary duties will be providing customer service to members and staff; clerical support; coordination of training events and communications; and assistance with database updates and maintenance. As a result of a front desk reorganization, Roma will be working at the front desk with Executive Assistant Nicole Farabee, who has taken on additional training-related duties vacated by Hannah Scovill, who left in January to pursue other opportunities; Farabee’s new title is executive assistant/project coordinator. **NWPPA**



A look back at public power

50 years ago – 1966

Hanford’s first 400,000-kilowatt generator was synchronized and put on the line feeding into the BPA grid system on a test basis ... The University of Washington’s quarterly journal ran an article, *The Trend in Engineering*, on the lessons learned in repairing BPA’s Orcas Island underwater cable ... Okanogan County PUD adopted whole-dollar billing and reported considerable savings in bookkeeping work (Wash.) ... Tacoma City Light began spraying its juniper trees with fluorescein dye, which is invisible to the naked eye but lights up under a black light, in an effort to discourage further pilfering of the plants (Wash.).

25 years ago – 1991

The Northwest Power Planning Council approved a new energy resources and conservation plan, calling for 1,500 megawatts of new energy savings by the year 2000 ... The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission approved a plan that would reward Puget Power & Light Company for promoting conservation (Wash.) ... Snohomish County PUD named Thomas “Mike” Shay to the position of manager, financial planning and tax (Wash.) ... The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unveiled Green Lights, a new program which encourages corporations to install energy-efficient lighting technologies ... Plans started for the development of a facility that would produce electricity and fertilizer from cow manure in Tillamook County (Ore.).

5 years ago – 2011

Turlock Irrigation District’s Larry Gilbertson was promoted from interim status to permanent assistant general manager, electrical engineering and operations (Calif.) ... Franklin PUD Senior Network Engineer Chad Schow completed the Cisco-Certified Network Professional (CCNP) Security certification requirements (Wash.) ... Lincoln Electric Cooperative welcomed Ray Ellis as the new general manager (Mont.) ... Oregon Trail Electric’s Ned Ratterman completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin-Madison ... Northern Lights, Inc. (Idaho) received a new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) 30-year license for continued operation of the Lake Creek Hydroelectric Power Project located on Lake Creek just east of Troy, Mont. **NWPPA**

Upcoming NWPPA 2016 conferences!

Power Supply Conference

August 1-2, 2016 • Portland, Ore.

Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC)

September 11-14, 2016 • Missoula, Mont.

New! Distributed Energy Resources Conference

October 12-13, 2016 • Spokane, Wash.

Labor and Employee Relations Group Annual Meeting and Conference

October 12-14, 2016 • Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

3 Cs Annual Conference

October 26-28, 2016 • Tulalip, Wash.

Women in Public Power

November 8-10, 2016 • Portland, Ore.

June, July, and August 2016

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

IT SECTION MEETING

Who Should Attend: NWPPA utility and associate members who are involved in the information technology aspects of their organizations.
JUNE 1, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering, operations, safety, purchasing, information technology, regulatory and rates, customer service, public relations, legal, and accounting, as well as utility commissioners and board members.
JUNE 6-8, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION — BASIC SURVEYING

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.
JUNE 6-8, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.

DISTRIBUTION ENGINEERING SERIES: SESSION 1 — DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING & ANALYSIS

Who Should Attend: Engineers and senior technical personnel involved in distribution system design, planning, modeling, and analysis.
JUNE 6-10, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: PERSONALITIES AND ATTITUDES IN THE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: Supervisors and managers, and employees who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future, and have completed *Leadership Skills Session #1: Situational Leadership*.
JUNE 7-8, 2016 — STEVENSON, WASH.

THE CUSTOMER FOCUS

Who Should Attend: All employees who want to improve their internal and external customer relationships.
JUNE 8-9, 2016 — BOISE, IDAHO

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Who Should Attend: Engineers, line workers, substation workers, apprentices, and support staff that have direct responsibility for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the utility's distribution system. Prerequisite: It is highly recommended that students complete *Electric Utility System Operations* before attending this class. Those who do not must have substantial experience in the basics of electric systems and utility operations.
JUNE 8-10, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION — EASEMENT ACQUISITION

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.
JUNE 9-10, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EPA AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW FOR UTILITY EMPLOYEES

Who Should Attend: Those who implement environmental plans and initiatives, maintain required records, compile environmental reporting data, and guide environmental management resources.
JUNE 14, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

FRAUD IN UTILITIES

Who Should Attend: All utility accounting staff, policymakers, managers, purchasing staff, engineering staff, and human resources staff.
JUNE 15, 2016 — MERIDIAN, IDAHO

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA) TRAINING FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: All employees with environmental responsibilities at utilities and those companies that work with utilities.
JUNE 15, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

OPERATIONS MANAGER & LINE SUPERINTENDENT BOOTCAMP — SESSION 4

Who Should Attend: Newly appointed operations managers, line superintendents, or those who have leadership potential. (Sessions do not need to be taken in order.)
JUNE 15-16, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: Anyone with a job that puts him or her in con-

Continued on page 10

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

tact with hazardous materials (hazmat) that are transported in any way. The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has established a series of regulations governing training programs for what are termed “hazmat employees.” Basic DOT hazmat training is often referred to as HM-181 or HM-126F training.

JUNE 16, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

ADVANCED UTILITY ACCOUNTING

Who Should Attend: Senior-level accounting staff, chief financial officers, and finance directors.

JUNE 16-17, 2016 — MERIDIAN, IDAHO

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REFRESHER — BASIC SURVEYING

Who Should Attend: Seasoned staking technicians.

JUNE 20, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REFRESHER — OVERHEAD STRUCTURE DESIGN

Who Should Attend: Seasoned staking technicians.

JUNE 20-22, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.

2640 – FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

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

JUNE 22-23, 2016 — DAYTON, WASH.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REFRESHER — JOINT USE STAKING

Who Should Attend: Seasoned staking technicians.

JUNE 23, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.

STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REFRESHER — UNIQUE STRUCTURES

Who Should Attend: Seasoned staking technicians.

JUNE 23, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.

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.

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. NWPPA



Save the date for the 2016 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!

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THE POWER TO DO IT ALL

by Carmen Proctor

Hosting a conversation café proves to be a great way to garner community support

The City of Nelson has a reputation as a leader in climate action, both in their corporate operations and within the community. They reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 25 percent within their corporate operations before encouraging the community to do their part. In doing so, the city developed a simple means for the community to look at their buildings so that they could make energy efficiency upgrades and start reducing energy and GHG emissions.

In 2012, the EcoSave Energy Retrofits Program was launched to the community, and soon exceeded the registration targets. Due to the success of this program, which is managed by Nelson Hydro, the city's electric utility, it has recently expanded to offer solar to its customers.

The solar is offered to Nelson Hydro customers through the community solar garden model that has gained so much momentum in the U.S. over the past few years, and it will be a first for Canada. There are several shared solar projects in Canada, but this will be the first model that will return the solar generation credit on the customer's electricity bill as virtual net metering.

Nelson Hydro, having its distribution grid and billing system in place, was poised to be able to implement a community solar garden. There were several steps that took place prior to accepting deposits on solar panels. One of the most important steps was to assess the level of interest in the community; without the community's support, there would be no reason to spend any more time on this innovative idea.

The West Kootenay EcoSociety, which is a well-respected local sustainability group, and Nelson Hydro hosted a conversation café. The café event was designed to present the concept of the project in a setting that would encourage dialogue and gauge the level of interest on certain aspects of the project.

Over 100 interested community members filled a local café one evening in the spring of 2015. The event was moderated; first the audience listened to a panel of experts and then the evening was opened up for dialogue. The experts discussed what the project may look like, what the benefits may be, solar potential for the area, and what the appetite for renewable energy was and would likely be in the future.

Those topics prompted a variety of discussions: the audience expressed interest and commended the city for this initiative, and there were a lot of great questions along with



Over 100 interested community members attended a conversation café last year to discuss a possible community solar project in Nelson, B.C. The café event was designed to present the concept of the project in a setting that would encourage dialogue and gauge the level of interest on certain aspects of the project. Photo provided by Nelson Hydro.

some concerns. Some of these included when would the project be implemented, who would be able to participate, and why the project would power only about three homes. These are just examples of the discussions that took place; overall the crowd was enthusiastic about the potential community solar garden.

Since it would have been difficult to capture the discussions and assess the level of interest at the event itself, an opinion poll was created in order to see the community's response on five questions that would help Nelson Hydro determine the overall level of interest. This opinion poll was circulated to an email interest list of about 120 people prior to the event, and available to those who attended. Almost one hundred polls came in, and the email interest list grew to around 175 people after the event.

People were asked to respond to the following five statements:

1. Developing local renewable energy is important to me.
2. It is important to me, as a potential customer, that the solar community garden is located in a visible location.
3. Maximum solar energy production is more important to me than a visible location.
4. Depending on how the buy-in model is structured, the

Engaging with the community was an important step for Nelson Hydro, not only on whether to move forward with the solar project but also to know where to build it. Hosting a conversation café was a perfect way to provide that real community feel.

amount would vary. Please choose which best suits how you would invest given each of the three following examples. (Several examples were given to determine whether we should develop the buy-in model with a payment plan or if an upfront payment option would be best.)

5. If the cost for solar energy will be above that of existing hydro power rates and may be at parity in 15 years, I would still be interested in investing.

The responses were that the community strongly agreed that accessing local renewable energy was important, it was

more important to have the solar array built in a location that would produce the most energy as opposed to being visible, and that they strongly agreed that they would be willing to pay more for a solar investment even though it would initially cost more than conventional hydro rates. Engaging with the community was an important step for Nelson Hydro, not only on whether to move forward with the solar project but also to know where to build it. Hosting a conversation café was a perfect way to provide that real community feel.

The solar garden is currently under construction and should be connected to Nelson Hydro's grid before the summer of 2016. Providing the opportunity for input, plus sending regular project updates to the email interest list (that now has over 300 names on it), is a great way to roll out a project that depends on the support of the community.

For more information on the Nelson Community Solar Garden, visit nelson.ca/solar. **NWPPA**

Carmen Proctor is the EcoSave Program coordinator for Nelson Hydro in Nelson, B.C. She can be contacted at either cproctor@nelson.ca or (250) 509-2021.

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by Wendy Ostrom Price

Flathead Electric Co-op invited members to join them in the SUN, and they did!



Charter panel owners at the official dedication of the SUN on September 23, 2015. Photos provided by Flathead Electric Cooperative.

Trademarked the SUN (Solar Utility Network), Montana's first community solar array was officially dedicated by Flathead Electric Co-op (FEC) on September 23, 2015, with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony. Many panel owners joined the celebration and a letter from the U.S. Senate was shared, stating that it is these types of forward-thinking projects that will maintain Montana's position as an energy leader. "This solar energy project will provide consumers in the Flathead Valley with an additional source of dependable energy," said the letter. "Thanks again for working to address the needs of Montana's energy future."

All members of FEC are eligible to purchase a panel in the SUN. The tax credit ultimately brings the cost of a panel down from \$900 to \$630, and members can pay upfront or by monthly installments. Solar energy generated by the panels is credited to the owner's account. There are 356 panels included in this phase of the co-op project, and they are sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Initially, members were limited to a single panel, but they are now able to procure more than one, which some people have already opted to do for their homes and businesses (renters are eligible as well). Even if a panel owner moves elsewhere in the service

territory, they retain ownership of the panel and the energy credits move with them.

SUN was built on property already owned by the co-op. September's SUN dedication, which included giveaways such as "dancing" solar flowers, decals, and sun-frosted cookies, was the culmination of months of planning, building, and promoting. A forward-thinking board of directors and staff wanted to not only demonstrate the co-op's commitment to having a diversified renewable energy portfolio, but also to be responsive to members who had expressed a desire for a local opportunity to invest in solar energy. Until the SUN was developed, the only option for members interested in solar power was to install their own (very expensive) PV (photovoltaic) system; and even then it wasn't always feasible at their particular site due to shading and other issues. And although the panels have a long-term payback (up to 25 years, which is the warrantied life of the system), those who participate aren't generally looking at the project from a money-making perspective.

Recently, a member visited with FEC about buying multiple panels on behalf of area foodbanks. "I think a donation toward their power bills would be a unique way of giving back to the community," said the member, who wished to remain anonymous.

Other panel owners have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity:

- *We are very proud of the co-op’s vision and initiative in making this possible. Huge changes need to be made for our grandchildren’s grandchildren to inherit the beautiful world we inherited. Huge changes start with good ideas and small innovations. Thanks to FEC for a great idea and enabling us to be part of making a difference. — Bill and Sarah Dakin.*
- *We think investing in the Solar Utility Network is the right thing to do. We are supporters of alternative energy. We have considered solar for our home but it is somewhat expensive. For us, this was a great way to compromise, and we think Flathead Electric does a great job finding the cleanest and most inexpensive ways to furnish its members’ electricity. We are excited about this project. — Roger and Susan Sherman.*
- *Thanks Flathead Electric Cooperative! It’s great that I can participate in solar energy without the large investment and maintenance headaches of doing it one house at a time. My solar panel is now part of my legacy to my children and grandchildren. — Doris Shennum, a 90-year-old member who bought a panel for her family.*

But the community solar array is not the only Montana first for Flathead Electric. Citing its vigorous energy efficiency programs and pioneering of renewable energy projects, Montana Governor Steve Bullock presented the co-op with a 2015 Montana Innovator Award.

“FEC owns Montana’s first and only landfill gas-to-energy facility and installed Montana’s first ChargePoint electric vehicle charging station. Flathead Electric entered into a power purchase agreement with Stoltze Land and Lumber to facilitate the construction of their biomass electricity plant and also helped re-deploy a hydroelectric plant for the City of Whitefish,” said Gov. Bullock. “Now, they have built Montana’s first community solar array.”

Award recipients were selected by Montanans for Good Jobs and Clean Air, a nonpartisan coalition of organizations and businesses united in support of a responsible energy future. Gov. Bullock told the crowd that one of the most pressing challenges will be creating more good jobs in the energy economy, while at the same time keeping the environment clean. “That’s what we are doing here today; honoring the businesses that are looking to the future and leading the way in renewable energy and job creations,” he said.

FEC was also recognized by the Montana Renewable Energy Association with the 2015 Clean Energy Leadership Award in honor of the SUN. **NWPPA**

Wendy Ostrom Price is the public relations officer for Flathead Electric Cooperative in Kalispell, Mont. She can be reached at either (406) 751-1820 or w.ostrom-price@flathead.coop.



(L-R) FEC General Manager Mark Johnson watches FEC Board President Bruce Measure during the ribbon-cutting celebration.

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by Sarah Smith

Celilo Converter Station upgrade adds muscle, flexibility to West Coast grid

Supporters of clean, green public power and transmission reliability gathered on April 21 in The Dalles, Ore., to celebrate the modernization of a one-of-a-kind piece of infrastructure, the Celilo Converter Station.

Celilo's return to commercial operation "represents an important moment for infrastructure development in the region," said BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer.

The unique converter station, owned by BPA, tames and transforms high volumes of electricity flowing through the northern end of the Pacific Direct Current Intertie. The 846-mile electron super-highway, the longest commercial transmission line of its kind in the nation, connects the Northwest with the Southwest at Sylmar, Calif.

The intertie provides affordable energy, reliability, and cost benefits to customers at either end, and the electricity that flows from north to south is virtually a carbon-free product of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Work on the station began in the fall of 2014. BPA, which funded the improvements, is also upgrading the 265-mile portion of intertie that it owns from the Columbia River



BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer at the April 21 celebration.

to the Nevada-Oregon border, a project expected to be finished later this year.

"I've been so impressed with the commitment and spirit of innovation from the team of BPA employees and contractors that has worked so hard on this project," Mainzer told a crowd of more than 100 utility partners, staff, contractors, and elected officials gathered for the April 21 celebration. "Your work will leave a lasting impact on the western electricity grid."

The modernization of the converter station — including seven massive new transformers built by ABB in Sweden and each weighing more than a Boeing 747 airliner — anchors a \$498 million package of BPA-funded grid upgrades to the northern leg of the intertie.

When BPA's transmission-line upgrades are completed this fall, the capacity of the intertie will grow from 3,100 to 3,220 megawatts, enough electricity to power 2.4 million homes.

"Celilo is one of the most technically challenging capital infrastructure projects we've done in many, many years," said BPA Project Manager Karl Mitsch. "It's with an enormous amount of pride that I can stand up here and represent the

 To see a time-lapse video of the massive new transformers being shipped from the manufacturer in Sweden to the United States and up the Columbia River by barge to The Dalles, Ore., visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ_f0BF0pvY.



Celilo upgrade project team in announcing that the project has been a resounding success.”

One of the most notable aspects of the accomplishment between BPA and contractor ABB was the shared safety record since work on the station began in fall 2014. “By my reckoning,” Mitsch said, “we were in the neighborhood of 400,000 man hours without a lost-time accident — not one. That is a major significant milestone right there.”

In January, Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall commended the effective partnership among BPA, its contractors (including ABB), and its Southwest utility partners (including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) in enhancing a major transmission link in the West. “This accomplishment is an example of the types of infrastructure advancement that will help the region and our nation maintain economic vitality in a changing energy market,” she said.

The Pacific Direct Current Intertie, a high-voltage direct current system (HVDC), was a marvel and a model when it was energized in 1970. Direct-current systems can move large amounts of electricity over long distances more efficiently than alternating current lines of a similar length.

That electrical feat, and the intricate technology that supports it, attracts utility representatives, government officials, and business people from as far away as Africa and Asia to visit Celilo. But after more than four decades of vigorous, dependable service, the vintage equipment at the converter station had far surpassed its operational life span and was due for a transformation of its own.

The new equipment not only supports the western transmission grid with greater security, reliability, capacity, and flexibility, but it will be able to work harder. Keeping the previous equipment in safe operating condition required shutting down the intertie for several weeks of maintenance each year. The next-generation equipment, much of it digital, needs far less routine upkeep, reducing outages and costs while improving performance for customers.

“This modern-day upgrade is a great example of BPA’s strategic focus to ensure the long-term health and operational efficiency of our physical assets,” BPA Vice President of Engineering and Technical Services Mike Miller told those in attendance at the celebration. “Months of comprehensive testing provided the assurance that this asset will reliably serve the Northwest for decades to come.”

ABB’s Tomas Leander, senior vice president for Grid Systems in North America, and Olaf Saksvik, project manager, presented BPA with a totemic gift: a red, wooden Swedish dala horse, emblematic of the vibrant, international relationship forged over decades of unique infrastructure work at Celilo. The dala horse comes from the Swedish state Dalarna where much of the HVDC equipment was manufactured and ABB’s HVDC center is based.

The 2016 horse will be displayed with Celilo’s two smaller Swedish horses, past gifts from ABB marking the successful completion of earlier upgrades.

“This one is slightly larger (than the others),” said Saksvik with a smile, alluding to both the horse and the pro-



The modernization of the converter station included seven massive new transformers, each weighing more than a Boeing 747 airliner. Photo provided by BPA.

ject, the largest turn-key construction contract in BPA history. “The next time we come here, we’ll have to bring a live horse maybe.” **NWPPA**

Sarah Smith is a policy writer and editor at Bonneville Power Administration. She can be contacted at sesmith@bpa.gov.



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Umatilla Electric completes solar project



A Christenson Electric employee works on installing the system. Photo provided by Umatilla Electric Cooperative.

Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Ore.) has energized the Moyer-Tolles Solar Station, a 1.3-megawatt (DC) solar generating project. The system is capable of supplying the equivalent of 112 all-electric homes.

The system is located on state Highway 730 near the eastern edge of the city of Umatilla, on 6.5 acres of land that UEC purchased from the Port of Umatilla. The system includes 3,952 photovoltaic panels generating up to 320 watts DC, which if laid end to end would stretch nearly five miles.

The system — UEC’s first utility-scale generation plant — is expected to produce an average of 1.6 million kilowatt-hours annually; the levelized cost of the energy produced is estimated at 7.8 cents per kilowatt-hour, based on a 30-year life.

“It’s a step toward having UEC member-owned resources that will eventually satisfy the RPS obligation,” UEC Finance Manager **Kevin Ince** said. “Ultimately, 25 percent of the energy we provide to our members will have to come from renewable energy.”

The system is named in honor of two UEC employees, **Fonnie Moyer** and **Bill Tolles**, who died in a 1971 car accident returning from a data processing orientation. **NWPPA**

Skolrood hired at Grays Harbor

The Grays Harbor Public Utility District (Aberdeen, Wash.) has selected City of Aberdeen Finance Director **Kathryn Skolrood** to serve as the utility’s chief financial officer. The hiring was announced on April 8 by PUD General Manager **Dave Ward**.

“I am so excited to welcome Kathryn to the Grays Harbor PUD and look forward to working with her. The process that led the utility to Kathryn was open and thor-

ough, but most importantly it ended with the best possible candidate being selected for the PUD and its customers,” said **Ward**.

As CFO, Skolrood will be responsible for preparing and monitoring the utility’s annual budget, reporting on utility finances, and administrating the PUD Accounting Department. In addition, she will work with the utility’s power manager and general manager to evaluate and manage utility revenues and work as a member of the PUD’s Senior Leadership Team.

Prior to working at the PUD, Skolrood worked as the finance director for the City of Aberdeen (2006-present) and the City of Hoquiam (2001-2006). Prior to that she served as the deputy director for the Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services Department, and as the audit manager for Preszler, Larner, Mertz & Company in Aberdeen. **NWPPA**

Modern Electric hires Marie Opsahl

Marie Opsahl has joined the team at Modern Electric Water Company (Spokane Valley, Wash.) as the human resources/executive assistant to the general manager. Opsahl will lead the benefit management, recruiting, and hiring functions; and provide executive support to the new general manager, **Joe Morgan**.



Opsahl joined Modern after following a three-and-a-half-year career as a human resources associate with the Eugene Water & Electric Board in Eugene, Ore.

She said, “I am honored and excited to be a part of the Modern team. The commitment of everyone in this company to the community is what makes our organization special. Our 29 employees are the foundation of our success. I look forward to continuing to work with Joe, the board, and our management team to achieve future goals and write the next chapter in our 111-year history.”

Opsahl has her Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oregon. She is incredibly passionate about getting involved in the Spokane Valley community and is a member of the Inland Northwest Society of Human Resources Management (INSHRM). **NWPPA**

Franklin PUD will not raise rates in 2016

The Franklin PUD (Pasco, Wash.) Commission voted unanimously on March 22 to not raise rates in 2016.

In July 2015, consistent with the recommendation of staff and its Rate Advisory Committee (RAC), the board of commissioners approved a three-percent rate increase effec-

tive September 1, 2015; and a second rate increase of up to five percent effective May 1, 2016, with the understanding that the RAC would meet again to discuss and evaluate the PUD's 2015 financial results.

The RAC met this past February and reviewed the revenue requirement assumptions and 2015 financial results. Their recommendation to the commission, along with staff, was not to implement any rate action in 2016, foregoing the approved 2016 rate increase of up to five percent.

Franklin PUD is pleased that no rate action has to be taken in 2016 and will continue to look for ways to cut internal costs wherever possible to keep rates as low as possible. **NWPPA**

Community solar program provides educational opportunity



Cowlitz County high school students take advantage of a new after-school program focused on solar taught by Cowlitz PUD's Engineering Department.

Local Cowlitz County (Wash.) high school students interested in electrical engineering and the ever-adapting world of the utility industry need not look any further than their local utility. Partnering with Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council's Business After-School Program, Cowlitz PUD's Engineering Department helped local students wire, solder, and power up their very own solar tablets that students were able to take home and use as a cellphone charger.

"Now I can charge my cell phone at the beach!" an excited student announced on his finished solar tablet.

Cowlitz PUD's Community Solar array was in the midst of being installed so students were able to tour the installation and ask the engineers questions about solar power.

In the next five years, Cowlitz PUD will have 447 years of utility experience retiring. Educating the future's energy

leaders is important, not only for utilities but for the energy industry in general. Reaching out to the local community and providing educational resources and the opportunity to have hands-on experiences with the advancing utility industry is one of Cowlitz PUD's priorities. **NWPPA**

TPU wins Governor's Volunteer Service Award

Volunteerism and giving thrive at Tacoma Public Utilities (Wash.). Throughout the year, employees give their time, skills, and money to help those most in need.

Last month, Gov. Jay Inslee recognized that and awarded TPU's Community Connection program with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for employer-based programs. Tacoma Public Utilities is the first organization to receive the award.

"We were impressed that employees volunteer on their own time and give their own money to support the community," said Serve Washington Executive Director Debbie Schuffenhauer. "The volume of the activities and the impact they make stood out. It was an easy choice to select Tacoma Public Utilities' Community Connection program for this award."

In 2015, TPU employees volunteered 2,200 hours after work and on weekends participating in Community Connection activities. They donated nearly \$318,000 in cash, product donations, and volunteer hours.

Community Connection has a mission to match employees' unique skills and resources to help meet the most pressing needs in the communities where TPU serves. The Community Connection program offered more than 40 volunteer and giving opportunities to TPU employees in 2015 through 13 local nonprofit agencies.

"Our employees have unique skills that can be costly for nonprofits to procure," said Community Connection Program Manager Erika Tucci. "Our employees bring construction, energy and water conservation, plumbing, electrical, and logistic skills to projects like the annual Rebuilding Together South Sound event and the impact is unbelievable." **NWPPA**

MEA's new gas contract saves money

Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) signed a deal with Hilcorp to provide gas for the cooperative's 171-megawatt Eklutna Generation Station into 2023.

"We appreciate Hilcorp negotiating an agreement that provides our members with energy stability and certainty while allowing for the flexibility required during these uncertain economic times," said Tony Izzo, MEA's general

Continued on page 20

manager and previous fuel supply manager. “As someone who has scrutinized gas contracts for many of my 35 years in the utility industry, this agreement represents a very positive step forward for our members.”

Year one of the contract (Q2 2018) will see a price of \$7.55/MCF, which is an approximate 6-percent reduction of the cooperative’s expected 2017 \$8.03 price negotiated by the attorney general as part of the agreement that allowed Hilcorp to acquire more Cook Inlet assets. Based on anticipated consumption, this new contract price will save MEA members an estimated \$3 million just in the first year of the contract.

MEA agreed to minimum and maximum annual volumes. Gas not taken in one year can be shifted into the next, allowing MEA to mitigate risks of lower demand due to warm weather or reduced economic activity. **NWPPA**

Okanogan presents more service awards

At the April 11 regular Okanogan PUD Board of Commissioners meeting, General Manager **John Grubich** presented service awards to **Fred Burke** and **Karen Williams**.

Burke joined Okanogan PUD on April 2, 1996. Before coming to the PUD, he had six years of experience in the utility industry and over 25 years of experience in management in other industries. In 2004, Burke became the chief accountant, with a title change to accounting manager in 2013, the position which he currently holds. Burke received his 20-year-service award at the meeting.

In December 2004, Williams was hired by the Methow Valley Community Center to be a contract employee for the PUD. To better accommodate the PUD’s customers, she became a PUD employee on April 3, 2006; Williams was hired on as a customer service rep, the position she currently holds. Williams received her 10-year-service award at the meeting. **NWPPA**



(L-R) Okanogan PUD Accounting Manager Fred Burke and General Manager John Grubich.



(L-R) Okanogan PUD Customer Service Rep Karen Williams and General Manager John Grubich.

BPA honors Energy Northwest’s Ridge

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) presented Pasco, Wash., resident **Brent J. Ridge** with one of its highest honors as part of the agency’s 2016 Administrator’s Excellence Awards program.

BPA Administrator **Elliot Mainzer** presented the awards last month at BPA’s Portland headquarters. “These individuals represent excellence in everything they do,” said Mainzer. “No matter their corner of the organization or their specific job, they all do their work in the context of a bigger picture and greater cause, and they’ve made a difference through their tremendous contributions to BPA’s public service mission.”

Ridge, who is vice president for corporate services and chief financial and risk officer at Energy Northwest in Richland, Wash., received the Administrator’s Exceptional Public Service Award. The award recognizes individuals or groups who have significantly contributed to BPA’s public service mission as it serves the Pacific Northwest.

Through strategic leadership, creative problem solving, and a collaborative spirit, Ridge developed an integrated approach to manage BPA debt associated with Northwest nuclear power projects. Under Ridge’s leadership, Energy Northwest worked with BPA to extend the repayment date for \$680 million. This action freed up BPA funds to pay off higher interest debt first, saving \$300 million in gross interest through 2044. **NWPPA**



(L-R) BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer presents the 2016 Administrator’s Exceptional Public Service Award to Energy Northwest CFO Brent Ridge.

Chelan PUD has “enviable relationship” with customers

Last month, Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioners heard the results of a satisfaction survey conducted in late February and early March showing customer-owners gave the utility high ratings for its low rates, good customer service, great communications, and few or quickly fixed outages.

Results show Chelan PUD enjoys “an enviable relationship with its customers,” according to **Bill Robinson** of Spokane-based Robinson Research, which conducted the survey. In particular, customers reported reliable service,

quick outage restoration, the new website, and communication with customers as exemplary, Robinson said.

“Robinson Research found no evidence of any other electric utility with customer satisfaction surveys as favorable,” he added.

Overall, more than 90 percent of customers rated Chelan PUD a 4 or a 5 on a five-point scale. Customers also rated District communications highly, with 94 percent giving communication efforts a 4 or 5. The PUD’s response to the outages caused by the extraordinary wildfires of 2015 made a very favorable impression on customers, even more than six months later. **NWPPA**

Douglas PUD honors Klinge, Schriver

On March 28, Douglas County PUD Commissioners **Jim Davis**, **Molly Simpson**, and **Ron Skagen** Awarded System Operator **Jaydee Schriver** with his 20-year-service award during their commission meeting held at the District’s East Wenatchee (Wash.) office. Commissioner Skagen thanked Schriver on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service; Schriver in turn thanked the commission.

The next month, the commissioners awarded Customer Accounting Supervisor **Rose Klinge** with her 30-year-service award during the April 11 commission meeting. Commissioner Davis thanked Klinge on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for her years of service. Klinge in turn thanked the commission and said, “I am thankful each day to come to work for this utility. I work with great people.” **NWPPA**



(L-R) Commissioner Molly Simpson, Jaydee Schriver, and Commissioner Ron Skagen.



(L-R) Commissioner Molly Simpson, Rose Klinge, and Commissioner Ron Skagen.

Energy Assist provides credits to OPALCO members

OPALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) announced that 108 cop members have applied for and received a monthly credit on their power bill since the new Energy Assist program began in February. The monthly bill credit ranges from \$10/month (for a one-person household) to \$25/month (six-or-more-person household). Members who meet the qualifications for other assistance programs, such as Federal Free Lunch, LIHEAP, or OPALCO’s Project PAL,

are likely to qualify for Energy Assist. Members on the Energy Assist program are also qualified for a similar bill credit with Rock Island Communications for Internet services.

“We recognize the affordability gap in San Juan County,” said OPALCO Board President **Jim Lett**. “We’re committed to doing our part and hope to inspire other utilities and services in the county to dig deep and find solutions to help seniors and low-income housings meet the rising cost of living in the islands. The sustainability of our communities depends on it.” **NWPPA**

WPUDA names officers, honors Brad Hawkins

Commissioners from four public utility districts assumed top leadership positions for 2016-2017 as the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) announced the election of its new officers last month. **Wahkiakum County PUD**



(L-R) Vice President Ron Skagen, Secretary Dean Dahlin, President Dennis Reid, and Past President Dennis Bolz. Not pictured: Treasurer Ben Kostick.

Commissioner **Dennis Reid** was tapped to serve as president; Douglas County PUD Commissioner **Ron Skagen** was elected vice president after serving a year as secretary; Lewis County PUD Commissioner **Dean Dahlin** was elected secretary; and Lewis County PUD Commissioner **Ben Kostick** will continue to serve as treasurer. Chelan County PUD Commissioner **Dennis Bolz** completed his year of service as president and will now fill the role of past president on the Executive Committee.

At the meeting, WPUDA also presented Douglas County PUD’s **Brad Hawkins** with a special award recognizing his long-term effort to pass federal legislation needed to preserve the value of HRA-VEBA plans for employees of public utility districts. Congress took action this year to enact a simple technical fix that was necessary due to a 2006 IRS ruling that made these plans less attractive by prohibiting the savings accounts from passing to non-dependent heirs when no surviving spouse or qualified dependents remain after a participant’s death. **NWPPA**

Okanogon PUD breaks ground on Pateros–Twisp project



Former PUD Commissioners Darrel Bunch, Jim Rowland, Trish Butler, and Dave Womack; current PUD Commissioners Steve Houston, Ernie Bolz, and Scott Vejraska. Photo provided by Okanogon PUD.

On April 4, Okanogon PUD (Wash.) Board of Commissioners broke ground to kick off the construction phase of the Pateros-Twisp Transmission Line Project. Commissioner **Scott Vejraska** led the ceremony and Commissioner **Ernie Bolz** delivered an overview of the 20-year history of this project. A groundbreaking ceremony ensued, followed by Okanogon PUD linemen erecting a structure assembly on the first pole set for the transmission line.

The Pateros-Twisp Transmission Line will create a loop feed to the Methow Valley area to increase reliability and reduce line losses. Currently, the Loup Loup Transmission Line is the only line that delivers energy from the Malott substation to the Twisp substation.

The project will consist of 27 miles of transmission line; 5 miles of 13.2-kilovolt, 3-phase, distribution underbuild; and 2 miles of 13.2-kilovolt, 3-phase, double circuit distribution underbuild. The structures for the transmission will be steel H-frame, three-pole, and single-pole for approximately 20 miles. There will be wood poles and laminated poles for approximately 7 miles. Polymer 115-kilovolt class insulators will be utilized throughout the line. The distribution underbuild sections will be of a crossarm and pin type construction.

Line construction is scheduled to be complete by December 31, 2016. **NWPPA**

SVP opens largest public EV charging center in California

The largest public multi-standard electric vehicle (EV) charging facility in California officially opened on April 20 in Santa Clara as city and EV industry officials celebrated the Santa Clara Electric Vehicle Charging Center located at the city's Tasman Parking Garage. The parking structure, situated near the Santa Clara Convention Center, Levi's Stadium, and the California Great America theme park, features 48 Level 2 chargers and one DC Fast Charger.

Santa Clara's municipal electric utility, Silicon Valley Power (SVP), collaborated with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Joint Venture Silicon Valley, ChargePoint, and MJR Electric to obtain a grant of \$393,000 from the California Energy Commission to pay for the equipment and construction of the charging center. Santa Clara staff provided labor, and operational expenses of the facility are expected to be covered by usage fees from EV drivers.

"This is a milestone in our city's commitment to fighting climate change, and it sets a standard for local action in California," said Santa Clara Mayor **Lisa Gillmor**. "This garage also features a rooftop solar array and state-of-the-art power storage capability."

The grand opening ceremony also featured a showcase of the latest models from local EV dealers. Industry analysts say that California accounts for 40 percent of EV sales in the U.S., where over 116,000 EVs were reported sold in 2015. **NWPPA**

Columbia REA announces elections

On April 14, Columbia REA (Walla Walla, Wash.) held its 78th annual meeting at College Place High School. The annual event was attended by approximately 350 members, employees, retirees, and special guests.

The board elections resulted in one new board member and the re-election of two incumbents each representing one of the three governing districts. The newly elected board director is **Gary Weidinger** of Walla Walla, who represents District #1; **Dennis Munden** of Burbank was re-elected to represent District #2 and **Jay DeWitt** of Walla Walla was re-elected to represent District #3. Directors serve three-year terms. Immediately following the annual meeting, the newly formed board of directors met to elect new officers:

Kathleen Wooldridge of Starbuck will be president, **Eric Johnson** of Dayton will be vice president, and **Gregory Knowles** of Walla Walla will be secretary/treasurer. **NWPPA**



Gary Weidinger

Testers from Megger offer variable test voltages

Megger has enhanced its MIT400/2 series of insulation and continuity testers. These CAT IV 600 V rated instruments feature an adjustable insulation test voltage from 10 V to 1000 V in 1 V steps, giving them a much tighter control of test voltage as well as conformance to specific standards and requirements mandated by regulatory agencies.



The MIT400/2 series is ideal for electrical installations, cable testing, and motor testing, as well as in automotive, ESD, panel building, avionics, and maintenance applications. It provides greater user safety when testing in higher voltage environments.

The MIT400/2 series, which includes the MIT400/2, MIT410/2, MIT420/2, and MIT430/2, offers test ranges from 2 G Ω to 200 G Ω , with test voltages ranging from 50 V to 1000 V. The testers have also been enhanced with feedback controlled test voltages to limit over-voltage to 2 percent, far below the accepted industry standard of 10 to 20 percent.

The series features a stabilized insulation test voltage to ensure it remains within tolerance to industry/regulatory standards as well as a single resistance range with significantly faster continuity testing ranging from 0.01 Ω to 1 M Ω . It also features rechargeable options for AC power and car charging.

Megger is one of the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of test and measurement equipment used within the electric power, building wiring, and telecommunication industries. Access their blog at www.meggerblog.com and watch the latest videos at www.youtube.com/user/meggerUS. For more information, contact Peg Houck at peg.houck@megger.com or (610) 676-8536. **NWPPA**

GenPac announces FR Apparel Program

General Pacific is proud to offer an expansion to its offerings: flame-resistant (FR) apparel. Featuring FR apparel from Bulwark and Carhartt, General Pacific now offers a complete line of FR apparel to help you and your employees meet current industry regulations.

There are two ways to outfit your crew: one-time/bulk purchase and the annual FR Apparel Program.

Features of the GenPac Apparel Program include GenPac creating your own utility-branded website based on the GenPacApparel.com platform — a modern, full-featured

e-commerce website; all employees are set up with their own account ID and password, and each account is loaded with credit in the amount you choose; account credit can roll over or be reset each year; the FR program manager has the ability to select specific products to make available or open the program to the entire GenPac Apparel catalog; and embroidery is available.

General Pacific (GenPac) is one of the leading wholesale stocking distributors in the Northwest region of the United States. Please call us at (503) 907-2900 or email ConservationSales@GeneralPacific.com for more info. **NWPPA**

Accent releases Varasset version 5.6

Accent, a Northwest IT firm specializing in utilities, released version 5.6 of its highly successful Varasset software platform.

Varasset is used by power and communications companies across the U.S. for asset management, work management, and utility pole attachment joint use. Varasset's highly configurable architecture easily accommodates each utility's unique workflows.

A few highlights from the latest release include improved performance and scalability through the change to a 64-bit architecture; Data Importer allows users to quickly edit large amounts of data through the new export/re-import functionality using XML or Excel; and in Varasset XAM, Accent added Compatible Unit & Estimating functionality to estimate resources (materials, services, tools, workers) and time needed to complete work.

Varasset's core functionality includes asset management; work management; mobile work/inspections; integrated Esri mapping; specialty billing; and business intelligence and data analysis. For more information, please visit www.varasset.com. **NWPPA**

Con Edison awards contract to TESCO

TESCO is pleased to announce that they were selected by Consolidated Edison Company of NY, Inc. and Orange and Rockland (O&R) Utilities, Inc., both regulated operating companies of Consolidated Edison, Inc., to replace their legacy meter asset management system.

TESCO is grateful to have been awarded this software contract and excited to partner with Con Edison. TESCO looks forward to assisting Consolidated Edison, Inc. in their goal of attaining the highest level of customer service possible through increased efficiency and productivity.

TESCO (The Eastern Specialty Company) is a manufacturer and service provider to the electric utilities industry. For more information, visit www.tesco-advent.com. **NWPPA**

by Lori Pickford

Congress and the Administration consider drone use to secure critical infrastructure



As we near the mid-point of the second session of the 114th Congress, legislators and the Administration are both focused on developing guidelines for the commercial use of drones (or unmanned aircraft systems [UAS]) — an issue that could have a big impact on utility operations by enhancing electric reliability, safety, and costs.

Public and private utilities alike are interested in this new technology to help enhance electric reliability, maintain electric power delivery services, and restore electric power quickly and safely after a power outage. They see significant benefits, such as the ability to conduct more frequent and efficient inspections, particularly in remote areas, as well as increased safety for line workers, and improved situational awareness — particularly during disasters, including fires and flooding.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which has authority to regulate all aspects of U.S. civil aviation, is tasked with developing rules to govern commercial use of UAS. The agency has been deluged with applications for Certificates of Waiver or Authorization (COA) for civil and public use; FAA staff acknowledged that they received over 11,000 applications in 2015 but have only processed about 4,000.

The FAA is currently revising regulations for use of small commercial drones. The rules are now undergoing inter-agency review and are expected to be released in the next several months. Agency staff has indicated that the final regulations will likely be safety-centric, conservative in scope, and contain “line-of-sight” requirements. This would be problematic for electric utilities, which would like to use the technology to inspect remote facilities, beyond an operator’s line of sight.

Congress has now joined the debate, with the House and Senate both considering legislation that could help set parameters for commercial drone use.

On April 19, by a vote of 95-3, the Senate passed an FAA Reauthorization bill, H.R. 636, which includes an amendment allowing for the operation of UAS by owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

Advanced by Sens. James Inhofe (R–Okla.) and Cory Booker (D–N.J.), the amendment would allow for UAS use beyond the line of sight of the operator and at night for civil aircraft, which public power can opt to use. As defined in the bipartisan amendment, “critical infrastructure” applies to all electric power generation, distribution, and transmission facilities, as well as natural gas pipelines.

The American Public Power Association (APPA), the

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) all supported the Inhofe-Booker critical infrastructure amendment. “The electric power industry sees great potential in UAS for a number of uses: from routine maintenance of our infrastructure, to helping restore electricity service to customers following natural disasters. Many of our member companies already use UAS under existing FAA regulations, generally limiting flights to daytime hours within visual line of sight. Your amendment takes the next important step forward to safely deploy this technology beyond visual line of sight,” said the trade associations in their April 7 letter to the sponsors.

The Senate bill would also direct the FAA to establish separate safety standards for small UAS, create a database of authorized drone operators, direct the creation of new consensus-based drone safety standards, and establish “no-fly” zones over sensitive areas.

Although the Senate bill codifies the FAA’s existing authority to authorize “governmental” aircraft operations, it does not address the specific issue of whether public power utilities flying UAS are “public” aircraft serving a governmental function.

Current law provides for expedited consideration for a COA for public UAS, but the FAA has been resistant to categorizing government-owned and -operated electric utilities use of UAS as such. Public power utilities, such as Turlock Irrigation District and SMUD, who are both NWPPA members out of California, have applied for both a “civil” use and “public” use authorization from the FAA.

In the House, the FAA reauthorization bill, H.R. 4441, has moved out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and is awaiting floor action. The bill is controversial, because it would privatize Air Traffic Control (ATC) staffing and operations, keeping oversight with the federal government. The privatization language would be a political “hot button” at any time, but it is even more so given this year’s presidential and congressional elections.

The House bill includes language that would require the FAA to work with the Department of Energy and Federal Emergency Management Agency to “facilitate the expeditious authorization of safe unmanned aircraft system operation in support of service restoration efforts of utilities.” The electric utility sector worked with Rep. Robert Woodall (R–Ga.) to include utility restoration operations in the bipartisan Manager’s Amendment adopted in committee.

The House bill, similar to the Senate bill, also creates a risk-based permitting process for commercial use, and a streamlined process to permit the operation of small UAS, weighing no more than 4.4 pounds, under certain limitations.

Although the Senate bill codifies the FAA's existing authority to authorize "governmental" aircraft operations, it does not address the specific issue of whether public power utilities flying UAS are "public" aircraft serving a governmental function.

In addition, and of interest to NWPPA members, Reps. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.) and Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.) are working with committee staff to include language in a report to accompany the House bill that would clarify that public power utility use of UAS would qualify as "public" aircraft.

Once the House passes its bill, it will have to be reconciled with the Senate version before being sent to the President

for his signature. The current FAA authorization expires on July 15, which does not leave Congress a lot of time to reach a final agreement.

APPA, NRECA, and EEI plan to continue to work with the FAA and Congress to familiarize them with electric sector operations and the benefits of drones to electric reliability.

NWPPA assisted in delivering this message when members were in Washington, D.C., April 24-27, for the NCPA/NWPPA Policy Forum. **NWPPA**

Lori J. Pickford is with Morgan Meguire, NWPPA's Washington, D.C., consulting firm. She can be reached at either (202) 661-6196 or lpickford@morganmeguire.com.



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Harney Electric, Randy Whitaker, and the Malheur Occupation

A lesson in keeping your employees and members safe in unexpected circumstances

Eastern Oregon's Harney County, which is one of the largest counties in the U.S. by land, has a population of only 7,700 and cattle outnumber people 14 to 1. The local utility, Harney Electric Cooperative, serves 4,000 meters and 1,200 members with a staff of only 22 employees. The service territory is the largest in Oregon and covers over 20,000 square miles in Oregon and Nevada.

"Our service territory consists of two things: people who are ranchers and people who are growing alfalfa for ranchers, and sometimes they are both," said Harney Electric Cooperative General Manager Randy Whitaker.

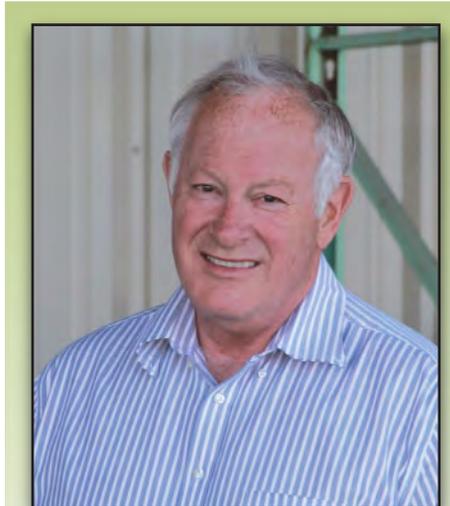
Whitaker, who has over 30 years of utility industry experience, moved from Washington state to Harney County in 2001 to lead the cooperative as its general manager. In August he will retire, but his actions during his final year with the cooperative will ensure that he certainly will not be forgotten by the community. In January of this year, Whitaker was suddenly faced with keeping the cooperative's staff and members safe during the wildly publicized 42-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Harney County.

"We're just a small, quiet, rural community, pretty much all of our members are self-sufficient, independent folks," said Whitaker. "It's hard to imagine having a problem like we've seen every place else, but unfortunately that doesn't always happen that way."

Whitaker sat down with NWPPA while in Portland recently and explained what happened from his point of view, the concerns of the utility, and why safety was always at the forefront of his mind.

NWPPA: For anyone not familiar with the occupation, can you please briefly explain what happened to the best of your knowledge?

Whitaker: On Saturday, January 2, five or six militia groups were meeting to march in Burns and show support for the Hammonds, who are ranchers from Harney County that were scheduled to go back to jail for some previous crimes.



Harney Electric Cooperative General Manager Randy Whitaker has over 30 years of utility industry experience and has been with HEC since 2001; however, he had never dealt with anything like the Malheur Occupation until now. Photo by Heather Bailey, HEC.

Five of the six groups marched to the fairgrounds, and the other group, the Bundys, went and seized the refuge. My ops manager called me with this information later that evening and asked what we were going to do. I said we aren't going to do anything yet but be prepared that the authorities will probably want to shut the power off. He had told me that some of these were ex-military types so we may have to disconnect remotely, which would in turn cut power to seven of our members. I said we aren't going to do anything until the authorities bring us a court order. We actually figured this thing was going to be finished fairly soon; we thought it would probably be over Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday.

But we didn't hear anything from the FBI until Monday night. They asked a lot of different questions and we explained some of the problems. During this period of time, we commonly have below zero temperatures for two to three weeks. We had to communicate to them that if we shut the power off, then these

seven other members would be in peril because their wells would probably freeze within 15 to 30 minutes.

NWPPA: To clarify, if you shut off the power to the refuge, it would shut off the power to those seven members as well?

Whitaker: Only because we didn't want to try and go and do that right in the refuge under a bird-watching tower that probably had a sniper in it. Typically we could just go on to the property and disconnect the power, but in an armed situation that was possibly hostile like that, and the vantage point of this tower, it caused us to have to figure out where we could do this where we were out of sight. We are not like Western Oregon with trees; our sagebrush are about three to four feet tall so these guys had a view from this tower of about three to four miles in a 360-degree circle of whatever was coming. It is the only high spot out there. So we explained that and then we informed them that the refuge used to have a generator as well. And if we disconnected power, the generator could come on and then the only people that would really be suffering would be those seven innocent folks that were just included in this mess.

NWPPA: What other concerns did you have at the time?

Whitaker: Some of the stuff that we knew we needed to do was should the feds decide to cut the power or take some aggressive action, we wanted to immediately recall any people we had in the field out of that area for safety. We also told our crews that they were not to go on any outage calls in that area without getting our permission first. The other thing we talked about was what happened if the group came here and wanted to hold one of us hostage as assurance that we wouldn't disconnect the power or get us to turn it back on. So we went through that scenario and we made sure that there was a back way out — we had about 15 inches of snow at that time and needed to make sure the back gate could be open and people could escape through there if they needed to.

NWPPA: Is this something you ever had to think about as a utility general manager?

Whitaker: No. This was completely and totally new.

NWPPA: How much did your staff know at this point?

Whitaker: Most of it. They knew that the refuge was under siege at this point. It was more like an attraction, people would come and go. We had a meeting with all of our employees and talked to them about our plans. I advised them that they should not go out there. To my knowledge none of our employees ever did that. However, a number of

folks from our town and surrounding areas did do that which I think is crazy. You never knew if and when it was going to blow up.

NWPPA: How did you interact with federal officials?

Whitaker: I'm going to guess they actually contacted us maybe less than 20 times in those 42 days. We asked them questions, but we were told we are not at liberty to divulge that or discuss that. However, they would ask us questions and we would give them answers. It was frustrating not being familiar with that need-to-know basis like they have in the military. I have no military background, nor does my ops manager.

NWPPA: Did you feel like you were getting enough information?

Whitaker: They never gave any information. The standard line was "I'm not at liberty to divulge that."

NWPPA: It sounds like your hands were tied.

Whitaker: They were and we didn't know when or where they were going to act on stuff. But we were very fortunate that the thing played out over 42 days and was very slow acting so we were able to prepare. If it would have unfolded at a lot quicker pace, like on a Sunday or Monday right afterwards, we wouldn't have had the time to do a lot of the things we did.

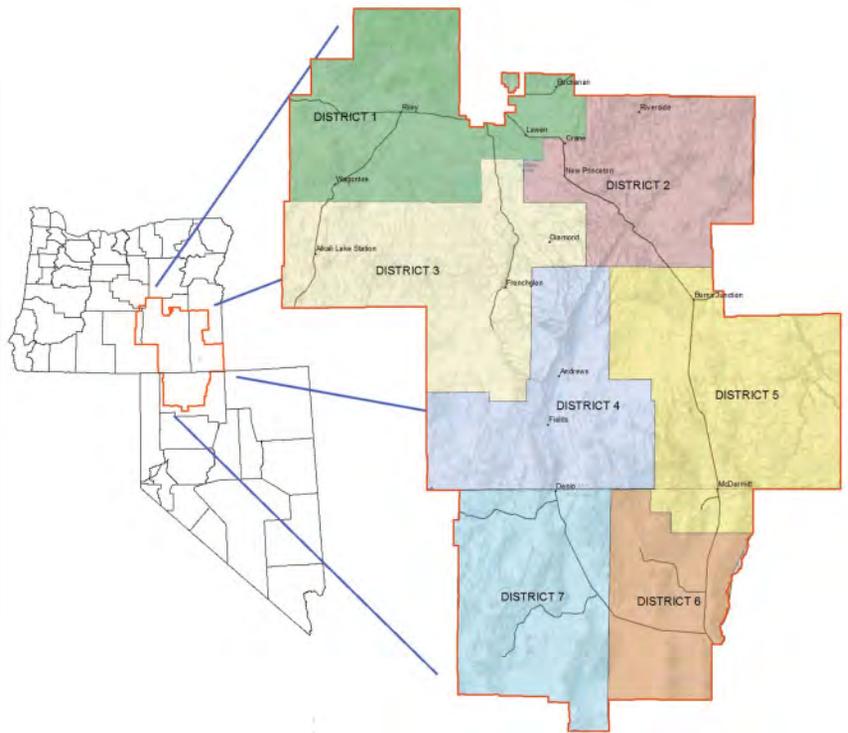
Continued on page 28

Anyone occupying the bird-watching tower at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge had a 360-degree view of three to four miles in any direction because of the extremely flat terrain in Harney County. Photo by Jason Hill, HEC.





Harney Electric Cooperative (above) serves 4,000 meters and 1,200 members with a staff of only 22 employees. However, the service territory is the largest in Oregon and covers over 20,000 square miles in Oregon and Nevada.



NWPPA: Any advice to people who may have to deal with law enforcement in a situation similar to this.

Whitaker: Recognize that it will be a one-way situation. We had asked several times for increased patrols and whether or not we needed an armed guard in our front office, and we were told several times, “No, we don’t think so.”

NWPPA: What do you do in that circumstance?

Whitaker: We got connected with Gallatin Public Affairs out of Portland to actually coach us on what to expect as far as the press. The answer was “no comment” and here is the number for someone who can answer your questions; the number was to the sheriff’s hotline that they established. Then we also retained a federal attorney. The concern was that we might get a court order that would require us to do something that was either dangerous or maybe not quite thought out, and they would have the ability to hopefully go in and talk to the judge or the U.S. attorney. They actually helped us know what to say, what to ask from the powers that be, and they connected us with the U.S. attorney general’s office out of Portland. That was helpful.

NWPPA: How do you think you were prepared? What did you have in place already that helped?

Whitaker: Very little. We never thought anything like this would happen and all of a sudden it’s there; we had thought about what happens if you have an irate customer or someone shows up, is armed, and pulls a gun on you. We didn’t think about being thrust into a situation where we were on the tip of a spear and quite possibly the first target if they

send us out to disconnect the power; that’s the first source of conflict and we would really be at a disadvantage. We hadn’t really ever thought of anything like that with a large group. An individual is quite different, but this would almost be like what would happen in a terrorist activity.

However, we did develop call lists and text lists so we could quickly send out a text message to all of our employees, tell them what the situation was, and to get back. Group texts are great for putting information out there fast — boom! We put those together and then we continually updated with our directors what the process was and had several meetings with them by phone to make sure they were on board with what we were doing and where we were headed with this. We told them that our standard line was going to be “no comment and call this hotline number.”

NWPPA: What would your advice be to other utilities?

Whitaker: I think the biggest thing is having a plan as to how you are going to evacuate the majority of the folks. Have a method in place to call help within the office depending on what the situation is. That person that is right there at the customer service desk that is going to have to make that call — is this something that can be resolved with someone else helping to diffuse it or do I need to get everybody else out of here because this person is going to go crazy. We are looking at some software that we can put on computers so the front desk can send a message that says please come to the front desk immediately so if there is an irate person up there they can get some support. The other

thing with the new program is a hot-key combination that you push and it says “evacuate immediately” — like a panic button. This program that we are looking at also calls 911. You also need a remote way to call employees out of a dangerous situation; it might be a lineman that gets involved in the middle of a domestic dispute somehow. It’s a scary world out there and people need to rethink how they do things. There is stuff that I never even thought might happen could actually happen now.

NWPPA: In hindsight, what would you have done differently?

Whitaker: I have thought a lot about what would I have done differently. One, we would have put stuff in to play a lot sooner. The other thing I think we should have done right from the beginning was provide a list of our employees to the sheriff’s office and to the FBI so they knew who they were. We did have some problems later on moving through some of the checkpoints that were put up during the last two weeks. Getting through those — I heard some real horror stories from folks. These law enforcement guys were all SWAT and paramilitary type trained individuals and just about every rancher has a rifle in their car to deal with coyotes and other types of predators, and that caused those guys a lot of heartburn. Law enforcement was already undeniably anxious; everyone was anxious, even in town.

NWPPA: How big was the military that they brought in?

Whitaker: No one really knows. I have phone numbers from seven different FBI agents and I am guessing that because they were there 24 hours a day, I think they may have had as many as 40 to 60 agents there between tactical and investigative individuals. But I don’t think you are going to find anyone with the number or that will say. There weren’t tanks rolling down Main Street, but in some of the news articles you probably saw the heavily armed vehicles along with the Black Hawk helicopters, which are incredibly intimidating.

NWPPA: What is the energy in your office now after all of this?

Whitaker: Oh, I think everybody is breathing a sigh of relief about this. During the time, it did have a huge impact; it consumed a lot of time.

NWPPA: Did your members realize at the time that the co-op was playing a part in this?

Whitaker: Throughout this whole process it was being reported that we were going to turn the power off, the power had been turned off, just a number of different issues, and again it was never happening. But I think they probably all realized to some degree that was a possibility that it could happen.

NWPPA: Anything to add?

Whitaker: I’d like to emphasize the whole idea for everyone to go through and come up with a plan of how they might

PR tips from Gallatin Public Affairs

Randy Whitaker connected with Gallatin Public Affairs out of Portland to coach him on what to expect as far as the press. For the occupation in Harney County, the main advice was to always answer “no comment” and offer the number for the sheriff’s hotline that they established. Greg Peden, a partner with Gallatin, offers up these additional tips if your utility is faced with a media blitz surrounding unforeseen circumstances:

1. Put someone in charge who is available 24-7
2. Establish clear lines of communication and decision making
3. Appoint a single, reliable, credible spokesperson
4. Always shoot straight; never speculate
5. Prepare in advance — annual training sessions are available **NWPPA**

handle some really unusual situations and have a plan in place. One for communications, one for escape routes — certainly if they are subject to the Cascadia event, make a plan for how you survive that. We had never anticipated anything quite like this. Yet, we were always ahead of what came to us. I guess in a sense we were prepared because even from the very first call we knew we better be ready for them to want to cut the power, what was required, and what were we going to ask. We knew we wanted that court order partly so that we had hard evidence of this is why we had to do it — because none of us want to go to jail. The other thing is we quickly recognized a division among the people about how they thought this should play out and we saw that whatever we did we would lose unless we did it under an order. That was probably the best stroke of business that we did — just saying no, we need an order; and if we are going to do this, we need to be protected physically.

We are lucky that no one snapped, particularly after the third day when some of these wild and crazy people started pouring in. But fortunately, from what I have heard, some of the people out there were turning a lot of those people away because they thought they would lose control of the outcome. If they wanted a bloodbath, I am sure they would have asked them to stay. A good way to describe some of those people was having a death wish.

NWPPA: How many times have you had to tell this story?

Whitaker: [sigh] A lot. [chuckle] **NWPPA**

Brenda Dunn is the associate editor of the Bulletin. She can be contacted at Brenda@nwppa.org.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

POSITION: Community Relations Coordinator

COMPANY: Tillamook PUD (Tillamook, Ore.)

SALARY: \$4,840 monthly.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 16, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.tpud.org, contact Tillamook PUD at 1115 Pacific Avenue, P.O. Box 433, Tillamook, OR 97141, or email jobs@tpud.org.

POSITION: Senior/Principal EMS Engineer

COMPANY: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Sacramento, Calif.)

SALARY: \$112,548-\$151,284 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 20, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.smud.org/careers.

POSITION: Manager of Administration & Finance

COMPANY: Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cordova, Alaska)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 22, 2016.

TO APPLY: Submit resumé with references to Cordova Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 20, Cordova, AK 99574, or email to info@cordovaelectric.com. Complete application located at www.cordovaelectric.com.

POSITION: Conservation Technician

COMPANY: Mason County PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.)

SALARY: DOQ.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 23, 2016.

TO APPLY: Applications may be obtained at www.masonpud3.org, at Mason County PUD 3 offices in Shelton and Belfair, or by emailing thedraf@masonpud3.org.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman

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

SALARY: \$41.42 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 25, 2016.

TO APPLY: Application available at www.plw.coop/employmentapplication.html, or email Susan Cutrell at cutrell@plw.coop (add Journeyman Lineman position in the subject line).

POSITION: Senior Application Configuration Analyst or Application Configuration Analyst #72574

COMPANY: Puget Sound Energy (Bellevue, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 25, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at www.pse.com/careers.

POSITION: Engineering Supervisor, Distribution

COMPANY: Tillamook PUD (Tillamook, Ore.)

SALARY: DOQ.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 27, 2016.

TO APPLY: Application may be downloaded at www.tpud.org, by contacting Tillamook PUD at 1115 Pacific Ave., P.O. Box 433, Tillamook, OR 97141, or by emailing jobs@tpud.org.

POSITION: Energy Economist

COMPANY: Aspen Environmental Group (Sacramento, Calif.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 30, 2016.

TO APPLY: To apply, send resumé to asp@aspenerg.com.

POSITION: Line Superintendent

COMPANY: Mason County PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.)

SALARY: DOQ.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 15, 2016.

TO APPLY: Applications may be obtained at www.masonpud3.org, at

Mason County PUD 3 offices in Shelton and Belfair, or by emailing thedraf@masonpud3.org.

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.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman

COMPANY: Public Utility District No. 2 of Pacific County (Long Beach, Wash.)

SALARY: \$43.29 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.

TO APPLY: Application available at www.pacificpud.org. Email to Jason Dunsmoor at jason@pacificpud.org or mail to PUD No. 2 of Pacific County, Attn: Jason Dunsmoor, P.O. Box 472, Raymond, WA 98577.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman

COMPANY: Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative (Grangeville, Idaho)

SALARY: \$40.75 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.

TO APPLY: Submit applications and resumé with three verifiable references to Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative, Attn: Chad Hill, P.O. Box 300, Grangeville, ID 83530, or email to chill@iclp.coop.

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 or contact mariem@ktn-ak.us, (907) 228-5631.

POSITION: Safety Director

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

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 20, 2016.

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

POSITION: Journeyman Meterman

COMPANY: Mason County PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.)

SALARY: \$43.29 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.

TO APPLY: Applications may be obtained at www.masonpud3.org, at Mason County PUD 3 offices in Shelton and Belfair, or by emailing thedraf@masonpud3.org. **NWPPA**

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