

BULLETIN



**FREE EV CHARGING
STATIONS EXPECTED TO
BOOST CORDOVA'S COASTAL
ALASKAN ECONOMY**





On the cover: Cordova's charging stations sit in front of the newly constructed Cordova Center, which has attracted international conferences/workshops and can cater such local delicacies as Copper River Salmon caught in nearby waters. © 2016 David Little, David Little Photography.

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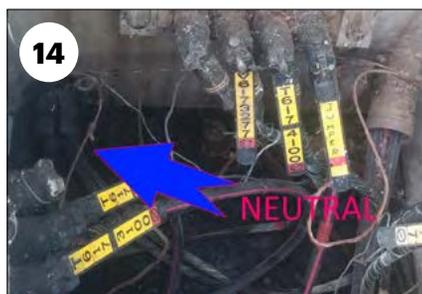
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NEW RULES

Most utility websites must be compliant with the **Americans with Disabilities Act** in the future, but the rules for how websites should be accessible are evolving.

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2018 Admin Workshop Aims to Equip and Empower Attendees



Calling all administrative assistants, executive assistants, and clerks to the board! Mark your calendar and register now for this year's Administrative Professionals Workshop, which will be held May 2-3 at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Wash. For this year's workshop, the planning committee has created a two-day learning-lab-style agenda full of hands-on sessions guaranteed to provide deeper and more focused learning. At this year's workshop, aptly named *The 360° Professional: Equipping and Empowering You*, a wide range of presenters and certified instructors will present on communication skills, event planning, Microsoft Word, and much more.

Jump-start Computer Training President Neal Otto will kick off the workshop with new skills for something we all use: Microsoft Word. In this highly interactive learning lab, attendees will learn four important advantages to using the styles function in Word: consistent formatting throughout a document, easier modifications to an entire document, quick reorganization of your document (without cutting and pasting!), and the ability to insert a table of contents in a matter of seconds.

After a networking lunch, Central Lincoln PUD Executive Assistant Sunnetta Capovilla will switch gears and talk about event planning. Having worked in the hospitality industry prior to working for the utility, Capovilla has a unique view of event planning. She will share her event planning experiences and give attendees ideas and tips for planning your next event, whether it be an annual meeting, retirement party, or utility open house.

Energy Northwest's Brent Ridge and Tim Biese will close out day one and start day two talking about Crucial Conversations, which are important discussions we all need to have at one point or another in our lives. Ridge and Biese, both certified Crucial Conversations instructors, will cover how to better handle disagreements and high-stakes communication. Attendees will learn skills to help talk with anyone about anything to reach alignment and agreement on important matters. Skills learned in this session turn into behaviors that improve decision making, commitment to action, productivity, and relationships. Consistent behaviors lead to organizations, teams, and individuals developing high-performance cultures based on trust and respect.

Other presenters include Jordan Peabody of Peabody Communications, who will spend 90 minutes helping attendees write shorter, more concise sentences for clearer and more persuasive communications; and Peggy Vasquez, an author and former administrative professional, who will share her insights and experiences about being "Not Just an Admin!" A complimentary copy of her book, *NOT Just an Admin!*, will be distributed at the session.

Thank you to the members of the 2017-2018 Administrative Professionals Planning Committee (Columbia Basin Hydropower's Stacey Bresee, Tillamook PUD's Nancy Dillard, Tacoma Public Utilities' Charleen Jacobs, and Energy Northwest's Daniele Pardini) for putting together another terrific event for our members. On behalf of NWPPA and the committee, we hope to see you in Tacoma in May!

For more information and to register, visit www.nwppa.org. If you have any questions about the workshop or other administrative professional offerings, please contact Jenny Keesey at either jenny@nwppa.org or (360) 901-3131.

NWPPA

2018

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS

CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

POWERING FORWARD IN A SEA OF CHANGE

APR 10-12
2018
TACOMA, WA

Top 7 Reasons to Attend the 2018 E&O Conference

NWPPA's largest event, the Engineering & Operations Conference and Trade Show, only comes around once a year, and this year it returns to Tacoma, Wash., April 10-12. Year after year, the E&O continues to provide utility employees with access to the best practices, tools, equipment, and services out there, as well as helping employees stay connected. Need specifics of why you should attend? Here are the top seven reasons why utility employees, industry partners, and vendors should travel to Tacoma this April.

- 1. Build and maintain your professional network.** Whether you recently experienced a promotion or job change, or you've worked at your current job for years, everyone can use advice and help at one point or another in their careers. Networking with other electric utility employees and vendors from our region proves to be an invaluable key to success for you and your organization. According to a survey of past NWPPA E&O attendees, networking is the number one reason people attend year after year. Come to Tacoma to begin—or continue—developing a ready network of colleagues that you can lean on throughout your career.
- 2. Cost-effective for tight budgets.** The early-bird registration fee for three days at the E&O remains the same as last year—only \$595 for NWPPA utility and associate

members. Plus, to help keep your travel expenses affordable, we provide several meals to registered attendees with the help of our generous sponsors. For example, hors d'oeuvres at the grand opening of the trade show on Tuesday are sponsored by Electrical Consultants Inc., and the ones at Wednesday evening's trade show reception are sponsored by IPS Energy. General Pacific is sponsoring Wednesday afternoon's pick-me-up snack break. Thursday morning's annual Utility Personnel Breakfast is sponsored by POWER Engineers, and the evening's reception is sponsored by Gore Electric and SPX Corporation. Attendees also enjoy a continental breakfast on Wednesday, as well as lunches in the trade show on Wednesday and Thursday.

- 3. The E&O focuses on the West.** While other conferences and trade shows focus on national issues, our conference focuses on the unique aspects of the Western U.S., Western Canada, and Alaska, including their climates, tools, work practices, regulations, and systems. Whereas you may only see a handful of Pacific Northwest employees at the national conferences, at NWPPA's E&O you will meet numerous friends and colleagues from your neighboring utilities and businesses. The E&O continuously provides an annual opportunity to see what's important, what applies, and what works in the region where you live and work.



4. **Visit a great trade show.** Exhibitors from across the West and the nation will be exhibiting the best services and equipment that the industry has to offer. With nearly 200 exhibit booths displaying everything from line trucks to outage management systems and engineering services to transformers, you will find what you need.
5. **Attend several educational sessions.** Between the general sessions and eight educational tracks (some renamed this year to better fit today's utilities), you can choose from over 30 informative presentations. This year's topics range from the management of eight substation construction projects at once, the impacts of cannabis operations on your utility, renewable diesel for your fleet, battery storage, leveraging your AMI system, EV charging, safety presentations, and so much more. Go to the conference program at nwppa.org/eo for a complete list.
6. **Roundtables with your peers.** We have moved our roundtables to Tuesday morning, so come early to get a seat because these very popular sessions often turn into standing-room-only events. This year we have three facilitated roundtables to choose from: engineering, linemen's and supply chain. There is no cost to attend, but they are only open to utility employees. Bring your questions and issues to share, and participate in, or simply listen to, an open and frank discussion.
7. **Outstanding keynote speakers.** To kick off the 2018 E&O Conference on Tuesday afternoon, the opening general session will feature extreme adventurer Neal Peterson and his presentation, "No Barriers—Only Solutions."

His journey of overcoming racial prejudice during the apartheid era in South Africa, poverty, and a childhood physical disability—interspersed with a nine-month adventure at sea and an early career as a saturation diver for a deep-water diamond mining operation—will open your mind to breaking down the barriers to your goals. On Wednesday, Gary Nieborsky, a former NWPPA E&O chairman and Pacific Northwest utility manager who now serves as the transmission and distribution manager at Maui Electric, will speak about the challenges and solutions in the rapidly changing utility business in the Hawaiian Islands and how they relate to our region. Rounding out the week on Thursday morning, the annual CEO Panel will once again take center stage and discuss what keeps them up at night, as well as issues and opportunities that are in the forefront.

Attending this event and making the most out of this once-a-year opportunity makes sense for anyone involved in the engineering and/or operations business of a utility. The bottom line is that attending the 2018 NWPPA E&O Conference and Trade Show can help you reach—and stay—at the top of your game.

For the full schedule, session descriptions, vendor list, and registration form, visit nwppa.org/eo today. Early-bird rates end on March 9, so sign up before then to save.

We hope to see you in Tacoma in April! **NWPPA**

#2018NWPPAEO

Annual Meeting Registration Is Now Open!



Join us in Boise, Idaho, May 20-23, for NWPPA's Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. From EVs to microgrids and cyber risks to organizational shifts, our speakers and panelists will illuminate the future with their ideas, experiences, and expertise.

This year the week starts off with not one but two fun and fit networking opportunities on Sunday morning: the annual golf tournament, hosted by Platinum Sponsor EES Consulting, at Warm Springs Golf Course, starts at 8:30 a.m. and requires pre-registration with a separate fee; and the new 5K fun run/walk along Downtown Boise's Greenbelt starts at 10 a.m. (no registration or fee is required).

Monday morning starts with several educational opportunities. The Government Relations Committee Meeting traditionally runs about three hours, and we encourage all NWPPA members to attend for an update on regulatory and legislative issues that are before Congress and the Administration. This year we are also offering two great preconference classes: *Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order* and *Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness*. Both classes qualify for NRECA Board Leadership Credit and require separate registration.

Tuesday morning's general session officially kicks off the 2018 Annual Conference. NWPPA Board President Steven Taylor, who is also general manager of Mason County PUD No. 1, will preside and introduce keynote speaker Mark Mills, who will launch everyone into the future with his thoughts on technology, energy, workforce, and world affairs.

After Mills, a panel of industry executives (SMUD General Manager Arlen Orchard, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative General Manager Tommy Wolff, and Rocky Mountain Institute Mobility and Transformation Manager Garret Fitzgerald) will provide their perspective and experience with electric vehicles and infrastructure.

The Annual Business Meeting occurs during lunch on this day, and afterwards Anita Decker will enthusiastically spotlight our More Powerful Together campaign by sharing examples of the many ways our member utilities have embraced the project and the collateral—from social media posts and reader boards to annual meeting themes and print advertisements. EES Consulting President Gary Saleba and Northern California Power Agency General Manager Randy Howard will then discuss community choice aggregators (CCAs) and why this business model is gaining public power interest. We will wrap up the day with ABB's Rob Roys, who will enlighten attendees with the newest advances in microgrid technology.

After a relaxing networking reception on Tuesday evening, hosted by Platinum Sponsor CoBank, we will dive right back in to the conference on Wednesday morning with Adrian Tuck, CEO of Tendril. Tuck will share his thoughts on how partnerships and technology can add value for both the utility and the customer. The two presenters after Tuck will continue the technology conversation. First will be Tesla's Carlos Gonzales, the senior manager of Global

Business Development, highlighting a new perspective on a utility-battery partnership and home storage. Then we will hear from Idaho National Laboratory Associate Laboratory Director Zachary Tudor, who will talk about how INL is implementing solutions to the rapidly changing world of cyber innovation.

After the always-popular and poignant awards luncheon, Public Power Council Executive Director Scott Corwin will lead an engaging discussion with member utility CEOs. Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's Les Penning, Grant County PUD's Kevin Nordt, Silicon Valley Power's John Roukema, and Wells Rural Electric Company's Clay Fitch will openly discuss the issues and opportunities their utilities face now, as well as what they predict to occur in the future. One of those issues will most likely be the changing workforce, which is why they will be followed by Taleos Leadership Institute's Eric VanDerSluis, who will shine a light on how we can build an organizational culture to carry forth that change.

We will wrap up the festivities on Wednesday evening with the President's Reception to honor Taylor followed by the banquet. At the banquet, we will welcome our 2018-2019 president, Idaho Falls Power General Manager Jackie Flowers, and enjoy dinner and live entertainment.

Register now at nwppa.org for NWPPA's 78th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Elaine Dixon at (360) 816-1445. NWPPA

NWPPA Welcomes Two More Utilities

We are excited to announce that two more utilities have already joined the membership this year: United Electric Cooperative from Idaho and the City of Bandon Electric Department from Oregon. Welcome to both!



United Electric Cooperative is a member-owned nonprofit cooperative that was incorporated on June 27, 1997, as a result of the consolidation of Unity Light & Power in Burley, Idaho, and Rural Electric Company in Rupert, Idaho. United Electric began functional operations as one utility on January 1, 1998.

United Electric is located in Heyburn, Idaho, and provides service to both Minidoka and Cassia counties. The cooperative provides service to 6,407 customers and has approximately 571 miles of line. Residential usage makes up 32 percent of their power sales, and their annual kilowatt-hour sales are 276 million.

An eight-member board oversees the cooperative, and Jo Elg serves as general manager. United Electric employs 26 full-time employees.

For more information about United Electric Co-op, visit www.unitedelectric.coop.

On November 16, 1907, Bandon, Ore., began using electricity for light and the local steam power plant operated with a capacity of 2,000 lights. Today, the City of Bandon Electric Department serves 2,732 residential and 998 commercial customers, and distributes approximately 6,722,747 kilowatt-hours of power per month.

The City of Bandon Electric Department is responsible for a safe and reliable source of power to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Coos County along the Southern Oregon Coast. The City of Bandon's electrical service is approximately 2 miles from east to west and 17 miles north to south. It has 123 miles of underground wire and 292 miles of overhead wire.

The Electric Department's staff consists of seven employees led by Electric Department Supervisor Jim Wickstrom.

For more information about the City of Bandon Electric Department, visit www.cityofbandon.org. NWPPA



A Look Back at Public Power

50 YEARS AGO – 1968

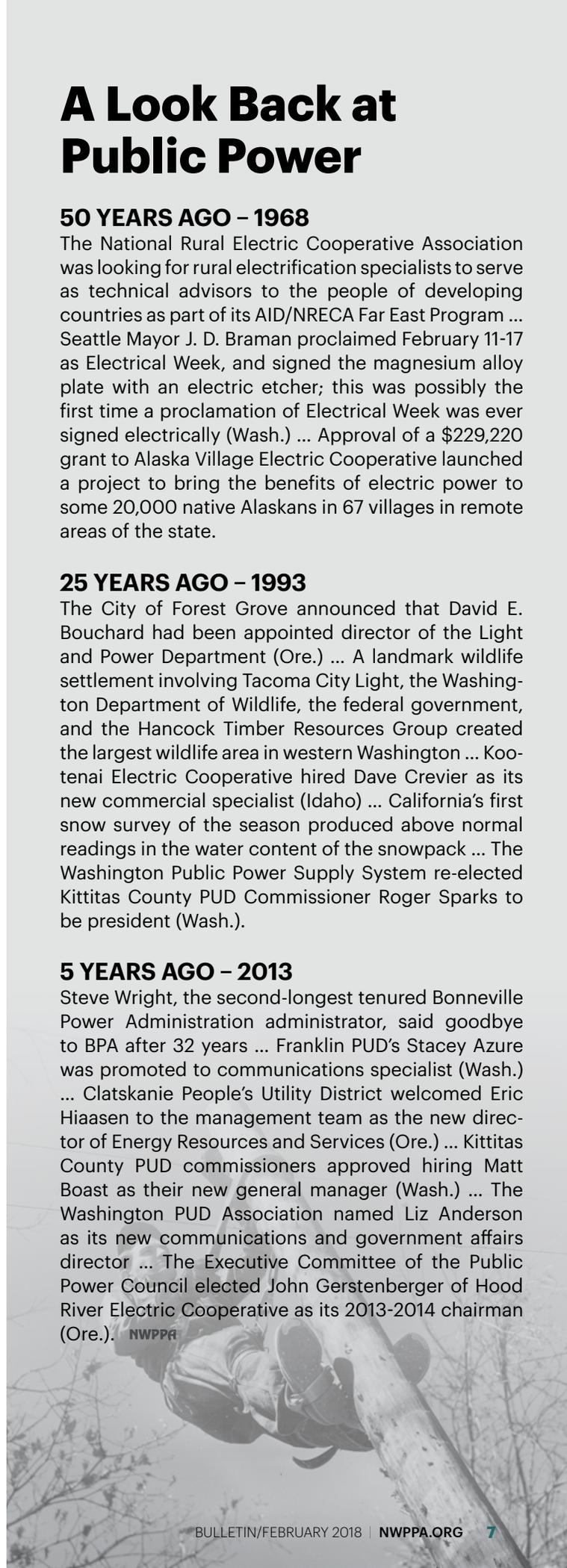
The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association was looking for rural electrification specialists to serve as technical advisors to the people of developing countries as part of its AID/NRECA Far East Program ... Seattle Mayor J. D. Braman proclaimed February 11-17 as Electrical Week, and signed the magnesium alloy plate with an electric etcher; this was possibly the first time a proclamation of Electrical Week was ever signed electrically (Wash.) ... Approval of a \$229,220 grant to Alaska Village Electric Cooperative launched a project to bring the benefits of electric power to some 20,000 native Alaskans in 67 villages in remote areas of the state.

25 YEARS AGO – 1993

The City of Forest Grove announced that David E. Bouchard had been appointed director of the Light and Power Department (Ore.) ... A landmark wildlife settlement involving Tacoma City Light, the Washington Department of Wildlife, the federal government, and the Hancock Timber Resources Group created the largest wildlife area in western Washington ... Kootenai Electric Cooperative hired Dave Crevier as its new commercial specialist (Idaho) ... California's first snow survey of the season produced above normal readings in the water content of the snowpack ... The Washington Public Power Supply System re-elected Kittitas County PUD Commissioner Roger Sparks to be president (Wash.).

5 YEARS AGO – 2013

Steve Wright, the second-longest tenured Bonneville Power Administration administrator, said goodbye to BPA after 32 years ... Franklin PUD's Stacey Azure was promoted to communications specialist (Wash.) ... Clatskanie People's Utility District welcomed Eric Hiaasen to the management team as the new director of Energy Resources and Services (Ore.) ... Kittitas County PUD commissioners approved hiring Matt Boast as their new general manager (Wash.) ... The Washington PUD Association named Liz Anderson as its new communications and government affairs director ... The Executive Committee of the Public Power Council elected John Gerstenberger of Hood River Electric Cooperative as its 2013-2014 chairman (Ore.). NWPPA



MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY 2018

Please visit www.nwppa.org to view the full course descriptions for these and other courses.

FRAUD FUNDAMENTALS FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: Mid- and senior-level management, as well as those involved in the accounting, treasury, purchasing, inventory, cashier, billing, and collection functions at the utility.

March 2, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

IT PRECONFERENCE CLASS: OVERVIEW OF THE C2M2—CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL

Who Should Attend: IT professionals and others who are responsible for information technology programs.

March 6, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

IT CONFERENCE

Who Should Attend: IT professionals and others who are responsible for information technology programs, as well as operations and engineering employees who would like to build a stronger relationship with IT.

March 7–9, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

ONLINE — LISTENING FOR EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Who Should Attend: Anyone who wants to increase his or her communication skills to be more effective working with both internal and external customers.

March 13, 2018—Online

NEW! ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: SIZING THREE-PHASE TRANSFORMERS

Who Should Attend: Engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices.

March 13, 2018—Online

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: ALL FOUR DAYS

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

March 13–16, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: DAY 1—BUSINESS COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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

March 13, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: DAY 2—RESOLVING CONFLICT IN THE WORKPLACE

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

March 14, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: DAY 3—UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF ELECTRICITY

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

March 15, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: DAY 4—PERSONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS

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

March 16, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

SUBSTATION SERIES: PRINT READING AND ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT TROUBLESHOOTING TECHNIQUES

Who Should Attend: Substation personnel, engineers, and all who have responsibility for the operation and maintenance of distribution and transmission substations.

March 14–15, 2018—Sacramento, Calif.

FOREMAN LEADERSHIP ACCELERATED PROGRAM PART 1

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

March 20–22, 2018—Great Falls, Mont.

NEGOTIATING YOUR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Who Should Attend: Those involved in any aspect of administering or supporting the collective bargaining agreement and/or supporting the labor relations function within their organization including human resources, labor/employee relations, all levels of management (line, senior, assistant GM, GM/CEO, and elected officials), and any others who would like to sharpen their negotiation skills and become more familiar with the details of the process.

March 20–22, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION TRANSFORMERS & LTC DIAGNOSTICS

Who Should Attend: Line and substation personnel, as well as engineers who have responsibility for distribution and transmission substations.

March 21, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

NEW! WAREHOUSING: INVENTORY, MATERIALS MANAGEMENT, AND SUPERVISION

Who Should Attend: Warehouse and materials management professionals.

March 21–22, 2018—Tacoma, Wash.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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

March 21–22, 2018—Sacramento, Calif.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: LINEMAN RIGGING

Who Should Attend: Linemen and line crew foremen.

March 22, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION BATTERY MAINTENANCE AND TESTING

Who Should Attend: Line and substation personnel, as well as engineers who are responsible for distribution and transmission substations.

March 22, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

NEW! INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Who Should Attend: Any manager, supervisor, foreman, lead employee, HR employee, or anyone who may be involved in, or is responsible for, investigating an employee incident or near hit. **March 22, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

NRECA CCD 2610: UNDERSTANDING THE ELECTRIC BUSINESS

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

March 28, 2018—Eugene, Ore.

NEW! OREGON UTILITIES RECORDS MANAGEMENT GROUP

Who Should Attend: Records managers, records coordinators, administrative assistants, executive assistants, and anyone managing records for their department.

March 28, 2018—Eugene, Ore.

NRECA CCD 2630: STRATEGIC PLANNING

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

March 29, 2018—Eugene, Ore.

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING

Who Should Attend: Utility environmental professionals (new and experienced), government agency staff, vendors and anyone who is tasked with or interested in environmental issues, regulatory compliance, or mitigation in the environmental arena of electric utilities.

April 9, 2018—Tacoma, Wash.

NEW! FUTURE-PROOF YOUR BUSINESS—THRIVE IN TIMES OF CHANGE

Who Should Attend: Utility and business individuals, leaders, and teams.

April 9, 2018—Tacoma, Wash.

NEW! ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: TRANSFORMER BANKING

Who Should Attend: Engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices.

April 10, 2018—Online

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Who Should Attend: Electric utility engineering and operations personnel, as well as those in information technology, safety, purchasing, environmental, accounting, communications or any area where a more in-depth knowledge of engineering and operations would be beneficial. For more information, see page 4.

April 10–12, 2018—Tacoma, Wash.

MANAGING IN A MULTIGENERATIONAL WORLD

Who Should Attend: Managers and supervisors who would like to develop practical skills for working with all generations in today's workplace.

April 10, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

COMMUNICATION ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESS

Who Should Attend: Anyone who needs to communicate effectively with others in their utility as well as with customers and members.

April 11–12, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

ONLINE — MANAGING ANGRY CUSTOMERS

Who Should Attend: Anyone who wants to increase his or her communication skills to be more effective working with both internal and external customers.

April 17, 2018—Online

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: AC SYSTEM TROUBLESHOOTING

Who Should Attend: Line and other operations personnel, such as metering, service, engineering, and other individuals who require understanding of AC theory and how it relates to equipment used to troubleshoot problems.

April 18, 2018—Seattle, Wash.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES SESSION 2: LEAD YOUR TEAMS

Who Should Attend: General managers, directors, and experienced team leaders.

April 18–19, 2018—Salt Lake City, Utah

MANAGING CHANGE AND TRANSITION

Who Should Attend: General managers, managers, supervisors, and anyone who has taken Leadership Skills.

April 18–19, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

QUALIFIED WORKER TRAINING - OSHA 1910.269

Who Should Attend: Individuals who do not hold an electrical journeyman certificate, but as a part of their duties must enter or open secured areas such as substations, pad mounted transformers, switch gear, vaults, and metering cabinets.

April 19, 2018—Seattle, Wash.

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.

April 25–26, 2018—Bend, Ore.

continued

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE — EMPLOYMENT LAW WEBINAR SERIES: ALL THREE WEBINARS

Who Should Attend: Managers, supervisors, and HR staff.
May 1-22, 2018—Online

ONLINE — EMPLOYMENT LAW WEBINAR SERIES: ADA - STRESS, ANXIETY, AND MENTAL DISORDERS AS DISABILITIES

Who Should Attend: Managers, supervisors, and HR staff.
May 1, 2018—Online

ONLINE — EMPLOYMENT LAW WEBINAR SERIES: ACCEPTING EVERY HUMAN'S NATURE AT WORK

Who Should Attend: Managers, supervisors, and HR staff.
May 15, 2018—Online

ONLINE — EMPLOYMENT LAW WEBINAR SERIES: MANAGING ABSENCES, FAMILY LEAVE, AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Who Should Attend: Managers, supervisors, and HR staff.
May 22, 2018—Online

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WORKSHOP

Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive assistants, and clerks to the board. For more information, see page 3.

May 2-3, 2018—Tacoma, Wash.

SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION OVERVIEW & INSPECTIONS

Who Should Attend: Line and substation personnel, distribution engineers, and supervisors who have responsibility for transmission and distribution substations.

May 8, 2018—Richland, Wash.

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: TRENDS IN FUSE SAVINGS

Who Should Attend: Engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices.

May 8, 2018—Online

CUSTOMER RELATIONS: BUILDING RAPPORT

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

May 8-9, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

SUBSTATION SERIES: PRINT READING AND ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT TROUBLESHOOTING TECHNIQUES

Who Should Attend: Linemen, substation personnel, and distribution engineers who have responsibility for the operation and maintenance of distribution and transmission substations.

May 9-10, 2018—Richland, Wash.

MANAGING CONTRACT LABOR AND LINE CREWS IN OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: Operations managers, line superintendents, supervisors, and those who have responsibility for contract management and management of contractors in operations at a utility.

May 11, 2018—Richland, 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.

May 15-16, 2018—Missoula, Mont.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: PERSONALITIES AND ATTITUDES IN THE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: People managers with formalized leadership responsibilities for getting work done through others and who have already completed Leadership Skills #1.

May 16-17, 2018—Kennewick, Wash.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: AC TRANSFORMERS, ADVANCED THEORY, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Who Should Attend: Journeyman linemen, foremen/supervisors, engineers, and those involved in planning, scheduling, and engineering operations for a utility.

May 16-17, 2018—Bend, Ore.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Who Should Attend: Utility managers, assistant managers, senior staff, power supply managers, utility board, commissioners/council members, associate members, and trade association heads. For more information, see page 6.

May 20-23, 2018—Boise, Idaho

ANNUAL MEETING PRECONFERENCE CLASS: 955.1 YOUR BOARD'S CULTURE—ITS IMPACT ON EFFECTIVENESS

Who Should Attend: Any board member, commissioner, or general manager interested in better understanding board culture and its impact on effectiveness.

May 21, 2018—Boise, Idaho

ANNUAL MEETING PRE-CONFERENCE CLASS: INTRODUCTION TO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

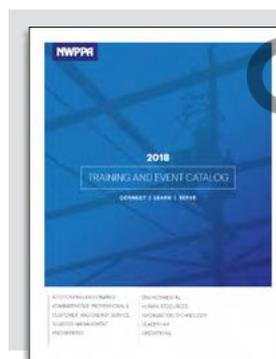
Who Should Attend: Policymakers, general managers, clerks to the board, executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and any utility employee participating in board or commission meetings.

May 21, 2018—Boise, Idaho

NEW! INFLUENCING OTHERS: MASTERING HUMAN DYNAMICS

Who Should Attend: Anyone who engages in frequent human interactions, such as utility and community leaders, customer service representatives, human resources professionals, and field employees.

May 23-24, 2018—Vancouver, Wash. **NWPPA**



View the latest Training and Event Catalog online at www.nwppa.org.

2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Engineering & Operations Conference and Trade Show

April 10–12, Tacoma, Wash.

NWPPA Annual Conference & Membership Meeting

May 20–23, Boise, Idaho

Accounting and Finance Conference

June 19–20, Spokane, Wash.

Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference (NIC)

September 16–19, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Labor and Employee Relations Group Annual Meeting

October 10–12, Seattle, Wash.

3 Cs Conference: Credit, Collections, and Customer Service

October 24–26, Vancouver, Wash.

EXCELLENCE. INNOVATION. VALUE.

At Energy Northwest, we work to understand and meet the energy needs of our members – the Washington state public power utilities serving nearly 1.5 million customers.

We are public power.

We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**



ENERGY NORTHWEST

To learn how you and Energy Northwest are #MorePowerfulTogether, visit www.energy-northwest.com



WHO BEARS THE RISK OF DEFECTIVE PLANS?

By Douglas M. Kincaid

Clean, renewable energy is on the rise. Integrating renewable resources requires expansion and modernization of existing transmission and distribution infrastructure. Construction of new infrastructure to meet the demands of the changing energy landscape is a major undertaking for any utility. Of the many risks inherent in developing new infrastructure, one risk associated with construction contracts that is often overlooked is owner's warranty of fitness of plans and specifications—commonly referred to as the *Spearin* doctrine. (*United States v. Spearin* (1918)) If the plans and specifications provided to the contractor contain a defect, the contractor is not liable to the utility for any loss or damage resulting from the defect. Furthermore, the utility, as owner, may be liable to the contractor for an adjustment of the contract price and the time of performance for whatever change is required to cure the inadequacy or inaccuracy. Now more than ever, utilities should be aware of the risks associated with developing new infrastructure.

The *Spearin* doctrine consists of two warranties: a warranty of accuracy and a warranty of suitability. Under the warranty of accuracy, the owner warrants that the factual representations set forth in the plans and specifications are true and accurate. Under the warranty of suitability, the owner warrants that compliance with the design features set forth in the plans and specifications will yield a suitable end product. Nearly every state has adopted the general principles established in *Spearin*, including Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, and California.

A.H. Barbour & Son, Inc. v. State Highway Com. (1967) provides a good example of how an owner may be required to bear unanticipated costs, no matter how severe. In that case, the plaintiff contracted to paint structural steel below the roadway of a bridge. The contract provided that all metal surfaces should be cleaned and conditioned by sandblasting. After encountering severe

rust which could not be removed by sandblasting, the plaintiff had to hand chip excess rust in order to perform its obligations under the contract. Although the court found that both parties were mistaken as to the condition of the bridge and the plaintiff had agreed to accept liability for “any unforeseen difficulties” in performance, the court ordered the state to pay the full cost of performance—more than six times the original contract price. The court held that the specification for sandblasting in the contract was a warranty that if the contractor performed sandblasting, satisfactory performance would result.

General clauses requiring the contractor to examine the site, verify the plans, and assume responsibility for the work do not overcome the implied warranty established by the *Spearin* doctrine. In *Spearin*, for example, the contract provided that “the contractor shall check all plans furnished to him... and promptly notify the civil engineer of any discrepancies discovered therein” and stated that “the contractor shall be responsible for the entire work and every part thereof.” The court, however, held that the duty to check plans did not impose the obligation to verify the adequacy of the plans for their proposed application.

In some instances, specific language disclaiming the utility's liability for design defects or express warranties by the contractor may be effective in shifting liability to the contractor. In *Shopping Ctr. Mgmt. Co. v. Rupp* (1959), the owner of a property sued the contractor and its surety when two sewage pumps called for in the owner's specifications malfunctioned. The court concluded that the pumps had been installed exactly to the owner's specifications. The contract, however, contained the following warranty: “[t]he contractor shall guaranty the satisfactory operation of all materials and equipment installed under this contract, and shall repair or replace to the satisfaction of the owner or architect any defective material.” In holding the contractor liable for the pump

failures, the Washington Supreme Court relied upon that contract language, which it construed to be a “guaranty” that the work constructed pursuant to the owner's design would operate satisfactorily. See also *Rhone Poulenc Rorer Pharmaceuticals Inc. v. Newman Glass Works* (1997), which held that an express warranty regarding the quality of the glass shifted liability to the contractor where the glass specified by contract turned out not to be suitable for the application. However, see *Trustees of Indiana University v. Aetna Cas. & Sur. Co.* (1990), which held that an express warranty as to the quality of bricks did not shift liability to the contractor where the bricks specified by contract were not suitable for the type of building and quickly deteriorated.

Often, the plans and specifications provided by the utility are prepared by an outside engineer or architect. An engineer, in preparing plans and specifications, is not deemed to warrant the fitness or sufficiency of the plans and specifications. The engineer's duty is merely to use due care and not be negligent. (*Fazzolari v. Portland School Dist. No. 1J* (1987)). Thus, although the *Spearin* doctrine implies a warranty by the utility as to the engineer's plans, the owner may not receive the same warranty from the engineer.

The takeaway from these cases is that utilities undertaking major construction projects should be aware that they are liable for defects in plans or specifications provided to the contractor. Even if plans and specifications are prepared by a third party, the utility, as the owner, may be liable for cost overruns which result from design flaws or inaccurate plans. Where appropriate, utilities can mitigate this risk by drafting specific contractual language disclaiming liability or requiring contractors to verify certain aspects of a design. The utility should not rely on boilerplate exculpatory language. Utilities should work closely with contractors during every step of construction to monitor progress and mitigate unforeseen costs and delays. Developing real-time adaptive solutions to any problems that arise during construction can help utilities avoid costly litigation. **NWPPA**

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Environmental Task Force Update



The ETF Advisory Team got an early start with a breakfast meeting on the morning of January's ETF meeting.



(L-R) 2017 ETF Chair Jeri Timm of Okanogan PUD and 2018 Chair Amanda Froberg of Cowlitz PUD.

During the week of January 8, more than 55 participants gathered in Seattle for the Environmental Task Force meeting; a half-day Department of Transportation certification class, *Hazardous Materials Training for Utility Personnel*; and a two-day class, *PCB Management—Foundational & Advanced Training*.

The week began with the well-attended DOT class, which received high marks for practicality, hands-on exercises, and the expertise of the instructor, Kirk Clarich.

The Environmental Task Force Advisory Committee, created to ensure relevant topics across NWPPA membership states, met on Tuesday morning to update the ETF charter for presentation to ETF members at the regular meeting.

2018 ETF Chair Amanda Froberg from Cowlitz PUD began the regular meeting by honoring outgoing chair Jeri Timm of Okanogan PUD with an NWPPA service plaque and thank you card. Timm chaired the task force in 2017 and was instrumental in helping to create the ETF Advisory Committee.

During the ETF meeting, members heard from presenters on various topics. SMUD Project Manager Arvette Hammar provided an overview of

SMUD's long-range management plan and downtown campus plan. She discussed best practices regarding the importance of assembling an advisory team and having a strong project and communication plan. U.S. EPA Region 10 Sr. Air Toxics Advisor Madonna Narvaez provided an update on the SF₆ voluntary program and subpart DD.

EPA PCB Region 10 Coordinator Michelle Mullin and Washington State Department of Ecology Chemical Action Plan Coordinator Anne Knapp both provided PCB updates. RCS, Inc. PCB Instructor Mark Pennell rounded out the PCB discussion with an update on PCB regulations and action.

Elizabeth Whitney of Meguire Whitney and Nicole Case, NWPPA's legislative consultant, updated attendees on the current legislative and regulatory environment. To continue the conversation, Froberg will attend the NWPPA Government Relations Committee meeting in May to provide a report on ETF issues and activities, and to hear the latest on federal resolutions and any impact those may have on NWPPA members.

During the afternoon, Avista's Todd McLaughlin provided an update on Avista's gas facilities replacement

program and Meridian Environmental's Jeff Boyce gave an overview of shoreline management programs.

Following all the presentations, utility members moved to a closed utility-only roundtable discussion to share knowledge and find resources for such topics as inspections and site visits; shoreline management; and meter recycling. At this time, the ETF Advisory Committee also presented the ETF Charter revisions that will be presented to the NWPPA Board of Trustees during the Annual Meeting in May.

The group closed out the week with *PCB Management—Foundational & Advanced Training*, taught by Pennell. This is a popular annual class that covers both fundamental and advanced topics, and Pennell has been a strong resource for NWPPA for many years.

Of the 55 participants, many were attending their first ETF meeting. If you have not yet attended an ETF meeting but would like to, the next one will be held on April 9 in conjunction with the Engineering & Operations Conference and Trade Show in Tacoma, Wash. For more information, please contact Jenny Keesey at jenny@nwppa.org or (360) 816-1458. **NWPPA**

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT NEUTRAL VS GROUNDING

By Erik Kysar

The difference between a neutral and a ground is extremely obvious, right? Just look in the vault or up the pole.

However, if your utility is anywhere close to normal, the answer is sometimes not so obvious.

The safety repercussions to the public and to your linemen from a burned-off neutral jumper can be dangerous. Therefore, in this article, we'll discuss those cases where linemen and engineers often confuse a neutral and instead treat it like a ground. At the end of this article, we'll also discuss sizing of both neutrals and grounds, such as when a #4 copper pole ground is inadequate. (Please note that the discussion in this article is limited to multi-grounded installations subject to National Electrical Safety Code rules.)

Electron flow

Rewording an adage states it all: Follow the electrons!

All electrons go out on the line, and then come back to the substation. No electrons are lost or generated in a substation. Using this visual, start by going out along the line, through the load, and back to the substation. As you come back toward the substation, if the electron hits dirt, that's a ground; if the electron hits wire and keeps going, that's a neutral. Again, dirt simple, right? Well, let's see from the following examples.

By the way, for you engineers out there, using amperage flow interchangeably with electron flow is not technically correct, but it does illustrate the point. Also, a perfectly balanced three-phase load will not have any current flow on a neutral. The problem is, I just haven't met Mr. Perfect yet; there is always some current flow even on a nicely balanced system, albeit perhaps small.

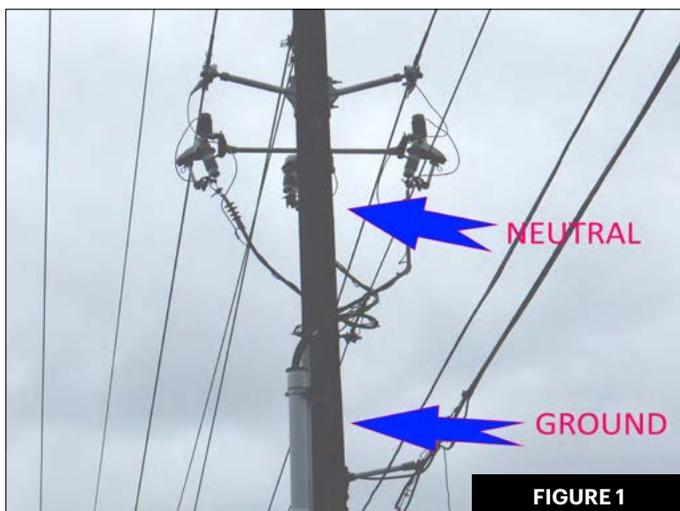


Figure 1 shows a generic example where the neutral is the concentric to the overhead neutral tie, and the ground is the run down to the ground rod.

Underground riser

Everyone installs a ground rod with a ground at underground riser poles; this is correct. However, we occasionally see the pole ground run up to the riser location, with the underground riser cable concentric neutrals crimped to it; this is incorrect because the pole ground is too small. Let's follow the electrons: the electrons go out on the line, and then return on the concentric. From the concentric, they flow through the jumper to the overhead neutral to continue their merry path to the substation.

Let's look at a specific example. Let's assume we have a single-phase 1/0 aluminum underground conductor riser with a full-sized neutral. This puts the neutral ampacity around 175A. Comparing to a #6 bare copper pole ground ampacity of 120A provides insight why the #6 bare copper is a great fuse if there was a fault on the underground. In this instance, a #4 bare copper jumper from the concentric to the overhead neutral would be the right choice, since #4 bare copper is good for 210A.

Substation risers (from riser to transformer neutral bushing)

Now let's take the riser one step further, and assume we are in a substation.

Follow the electrons: they go out from the substation, on down the line to the load, through the load, then back on the neutral, through the ground grid, and 100 percent of the electrons go up the neutral jumper (between the ground grid and the neutral bushing), up into neutral bushing of the transformer, and back through the winding. With the typical delta-wye substation transformers, 100 percent of the electrons on the neutral go up the neutral bushing, and absolutely none go back to the generation station.

Let's look at two specific examples and points of concern.

First, let's assume the substation get-a-ways are three-phase 750kcmil aluminum with one-third neutrals. The total ampacity of all three neutrals is about 510A. This requires a 4/0 bare copper tie from the concentrics to the substation ground grid.

Second, let's discuss the ground grid and neutral bushing. During unbalanced conditions, and especially during single-line to ground faults (almost 70 percent of all faults are this type), all the current flows through the ground grid to the neutral bushing. What does this mean? This means that the copper conductor ground grid under the substation between the riser and the transformer neutral is a current-carrying conductor and must be sized accordingly. The jumper from the ground grid to the neutral bushing is also the same thing. If any connection in the ground grid or the connection to the neutral bushing becomes loose, the electrons don't know where to go—that's not a happy ending for the poor little electronics in customers' homes. Therefore, we generally provide at least two paths of electron flow all the way from the riser to the neutral bushing of the transformer.

Overhead regulator bank

Have you ever seen the overhead neutral dead-ended on both sides of the regulator bank with a jumper between them routed under the platform? This is fairly typical. Have you seen it the same size as the pole ground? I have. Ouch!

Using the same thought process outlined earlier, follow the electrons: the electron flows from the neutral on one side, through the jumper, and on to the neutral on the opposite side. Hence, the jumper ampacity rating must be sized equal to the neutral. Assuming a 336 AAC neutral with a typical ampacity of 530A, the jumper needs to be 4/0 bare copper (good for 588A) to prevent it from becoming a fuse.

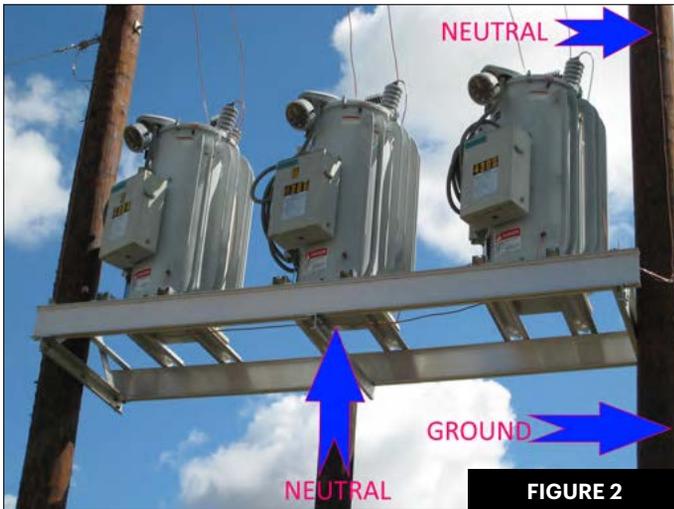
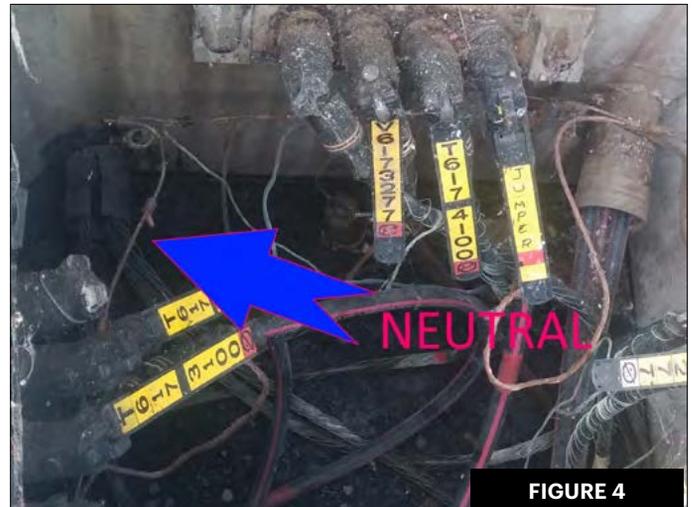
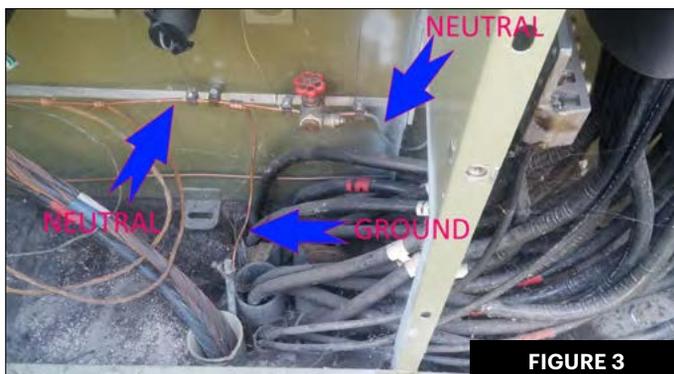


Figure 2 provides an example of the neutral starting from one side of the pole, jumpering under the regulator rack, back up to the overhead neutral on the other side of the rack, where the ground is simply tapped from the jumper to the ground rod.

Vaults and pad-mount equipment

Following the electrons, we go out to the load, and then come back on the neutral, through the incoming concentric, hit a copper jumper wire, to the outgoing concentric, and on to the substation.

The concern I often see is the copper jumper wire down in the vault is too small. Using an example of 750kcmil aluminum conductor with one-third neutrals, the conductor is good for 510A, which is what the total neutral ampacity is. Using a bare overhead copper ampacity (since this conductor is in air down in the vault), the jumper size needs to be at least 4/0 bare



copper. On the other hand, 1000kcmil aluminum EPR is on the edge, and 350kcmil bare copper jumper would be better.

This sounds fairly simple, but in real life, there can be a lot of ground and neutral jumpers in transformers and vaults, and it can be easy to become confused. Figures 3 and 4 provide pictures of typical existing installations.

Tape-shield underground conductor

Since the tape shield's sole purpose is to shield the cable and since it is not rated to carry the unbalanced neutral current or the short circuit current, it is by design required to be grounded at only one end of the cable. However, to afford safety for people working on these cables, it is grounded at both ends. To protect the cable, a dedicated neutral conductor is run with the other three-phase conductors in the same conduit.

This neutral carries fault current and unbalance current. Therefore, it should be sized the same as a concentric neutral in a typical underground cable. For example, let's assume we have a 500kcmil aluminum URD run, which is good for a continuous 420A. With a one-third concentric neutral, all three concentrics together would also have an ampacity of about 420A. This relates to a 500kcmil copper XHWW 600V insulated neutral (which is good for 430A at 90°C per the NEC).

Conclusion

Follow the electrons!

Also remember to size the neutral to match the neutral it is connected to, and size the ground adequately for the neutral. And if you are not sure, treat it and size it like a neutral. Remember—safety first! **NWPPA**

Erik Kysar, P.E. is the president of Brown & Kysar, Inc., which has been providing hands-on, practical engineering, permitting, and planning solutions to public power utilities in the Northwest since 1985. He can be contacted at erikk@bki.cc or (360) 931-4424.

HELP BLIND CONSUMERS SEE YOUR WEBSITE (IT'S THE LAW)

Accessibility grace period ended in January for munis, PUDs

By Charlie Stanley

More often than not, when a company builds a website, it is not designed with accessibility in mind. Over the past two years, questions have been raised about whether designing for easy access for persons with disabilities is required, but the fundamentals of web accessibility remain daunting.

Municipal utilities and public/people's utility districts must build websites that are easily understood by consumers with vision, hearing, mental, physical, and other types of disabilities. It's the law. Electric cooperatives, though not technically required to follow suit, should probably do it, too.

But this is not a one-time upgrade. After all, we add new content to websites all the time. Keeping a website accessible takes time, maintenance, and staff training.

One common mistake, the alt tag, quickly makes a site inaccessible for consumers with vision challenges if not handled carefully.

What's an alt tag?

An alt tag—shorthand for an image's alternative attribute—lets you describe an image to people who are blind and use a screen reader. All modern content management systems should have the ability to add an alt tag to an image. Be sure to use the alt tag field, not the image title field.

A picture can be worth a thousand words, but alt tags typically should not be more than 16 words. How do you know if you are describing an image properly?

The first step when picking the right alt tag for an image is to decide if the image conveys content or is purely decorative. If the content the image conveys is presented within text in the surrounding context of the image, an empty alt tag may suffice.

However, if you were reading the article to a blind person and would describe the image to him or her to explain the story, add that description as an alt tag. The exception would be if the image is captioned; if so, you typically do not need an alt tag. Screen readers will read the caption to the user. Having the same information for the alt tag may be redundant.

The alternative text for one image may be vastly different based on the context and surroundings of the image itself. Take, for instance, the following image:



If I was to give this image an alt tag, it could be, “Bonneville Dam view in Columbia River Gorge after forest fire. Hydroelectric power generation structures between Oregon and Washington.”

Will you get sued if your description is not to a tee? Unlikely, because this is generally a matter of opinion. There is no right or wrong answer.

Some images—charts, for example—provide content. Typically, these images need to have an alt tag that describes the text in the image exactly. Otherwise, you are essentially providing different content to someone based on his or her abilities. That, by definition, is segregation—a form of discrimination. An attorney could argue you are violating the web visitor's civil rights based on his or her disability.

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<img src=""  
alt="">
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The Annual Meeting image on page 16 clearly conveys information. The man's hands and shirt in the background are decorative, but there is also information about an annual meeting. The content I read without having a disability is "Annual Meeting." To ensure I do not segregate any blind website visitor, I need to include the same message in the alt tag. The alt tag would say "Annual Meeting." If I shorten my alt tag to "meeting," I have essentially provided different content to someone because of his or her disability.

New images are added to your website every month. Educating staff on alt tags is a big step towards keeping your website compliant with the law.

Who must obey the law?

Forty-five years ago, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 aimed to stop discrimination based on disability (vision, hearing, mental, physical) by federal agencies. The act requires any group doing business with federal agencies or receiving benefits from federal agencies to follow the government's lead.

In 1990, the umbrella of protections for people with disabilities widened to include state and local government agencies (including municipal utilities and PUDs) through Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

As technologies evolved, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 changed, too. Section 508 was updated in 2001 to make sure electronic information can be found and understood by everyone. The new website accessibility requirements stem from this part of the law.

An updated rule on website accessibility was published in the U.S. Federal Register last year. Federal agencies and organizations receiving benefits from federal agencies—including municipal utilities and PUDs—had a year to update their websites to meet the accessibility guidelines. The grace period ended on January 18, 2018.

Municipal utilities and PUDs must follow these rules. But what about electric cooperatives? This is a grey area. Co-ops do not fall under Title II, but they often buy power or get federally guaranteed loans from the government. Energy rebate dollars and grants often come from federal agencies, too. Co-ops may need to comply because they do business with federal agencies. The decision on whether to comply with the rules—to be safe and socially responsible—rests with co-op leadership. **NWPPA**

Charlie Stanley is the website solutions manager for Ruralite Services, Inc. and has extensive experience updating or completely rebuilding websites to be easily understood by all consumers. He can be contacted at charlies@ruralite.org.

NEW RULES

Most utility websites must be compliant with the **Americans with Disabilities Act** in the future, but the rules for how websites should be accessible are evolving.

The ADA protects against disability-based discrimination. It applies to all federal agencies and organizations doing business with them. Programs receiving federal funds (government agencies, federally-funded projects and schools) may not discriminate against people with disabilities.

IMPACT ON UTILITIES

- Municipal-owned utilities that receive any type of federal grant or federal dollars must comply.
- Utilities receiving power from a federal organization (such as the Bonneville Power Administration) may need to comply. This is a gray area.

REDUCE RISK

Many utilities are making good-faith efforts to make websites and other digital media compliant with ADA Section 508 Standards and provide training for key staff.

Pend Oreille Hires New Compliance, Training Manager

With over 30 years of experience in the utility industry, **Kevin Conway** has joined Pend Oreille County PUD (Newport, Wash.) as the compliance and training manager.

Conway spent nine years as vice president of operations at Intellibind Technologies LLC, a consulting service that supports utilities in meeting North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards. Conway has also worked for the Grand Coulee Hydro Electric Authority, NERC, and Grant County Public Utility District.



Conway's experience will build on the success of the PUD's Compliance program to ensure national- and state-level requirements are met. He will also play a key role working with each department within the PUD on required compliance training and professional development.

"Despite its rural character, the PUD in fact owns and operates a complex interconnected system made up of generation and transmission facilities—and takes the associated compliance responsibilities very serious," said General Manager **Colin Willenbrock**. "Kevin and his years of experience will be critical in helping the District continue to meet its reliability and security obligations."

Conway fills the vacant position after the former manager left to take another job with a consulting company. **NWPPA**

Douglas PUD Honors Petersen

On January 8, Douglas County PUD (East Wenatchee, Wash.) Commissioners **Ronald E Skagen**, **Molly Simpson**, and **Aaron J. Viebrock** awarded Work Order Clerk **Sandy Petersen** with her 25-year service award.

Commissioner Skagen thanked Petersen on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for her years of service. She thanked the commission and said, "It's been fabulous, a great place to work." **NWPPA**



Commissioner Ron Skagen, Commissioner Aaron Viebrock, Debbie Kenny, Sandy Petersen, and Commissioner Molly Simpson.

Funding for Grays Harbor's Fiber Project Approved

Washington Governor **Jay Inslee's** signature on the 2017-19 Capital Budget will send nearly a half-million dollars in economic development funding to the Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.) and East Grays Harbor County. The budget, approved by the legislature on January 18 and signed by the governor on the next day, includes \$463,000 for the East Grays Harbor County Fiber Project, which will improve fiber-optic cable connections to the Elma and Satsop School Districts, the Schouweiler industrial park, and local homes and businesses.

"School, residential, and business interests in Satsop and Elma will see additional options for improved internet and communication services because of this project," said PUD Core Services Director **Rob Hanny**. "Thanks to the leadership of our legislative partners, this will mean improved service and greater flexibility within the PUD capital budget and the opportunity to complete other projects."

The Capital Budget request was sponsored by Rep. **Mike Chapman** and supported by his fellow 24th district legislators, Rep. **Steve Tharinger** and Sen. **Kevin Van De Wege**.

"Broadband internet is vital for our local businesses and communities here in timber and farm country," Chapman said. "I'm pleased and proud that lawmakers could partner with the Grays Harbor Public Utility District to make this happen, and I look forward to pushing hard for new ideas and partnerships to make sure all of rural Washington has a fast, affordable link to the internet." **NWPPA**

Benton PUD Introduces New Online Outage Map

Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.) added a new Outage Center to their website featuring a near real-time outage map. The outage map has also been added to Benton PUD's SmartHub® app, which already offered outage reporting capabilities.



"Benton PUD strives to have very reliable service; however, sometimes storms, distracted drivers, equipment malfunction, and even squirrels can cause power outages," said Benton PUD Director of Operations **Steve Hunter**. "The new online Outage Center will provide customers an easy way to monitor outages and receive helpful information related to safety and tips for outage preparation."

The outage map shows the general location of the outage; if the outage is planned or unplanned; the number of customers without power; and if a crew has been assigned. The map will not show specific addresses that are without power for safety reasons.

Benton PUD customers can easily access the outage map on their computer or on their mobile device using the Benton PUD SmartHub® app. **NWPPA**

SMUD Removes Solar Surcharge from Customer Bills

SMUD (Sacramento, Calif.) has removed the state-mandated SB-1 solar surcharge from all customer bills. Part of Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** Million Solar Roofs Initiative, the surcharge—currently equal to \$0.0016 per kilowatt-hour of electricity usage or about \$1.20 on an average SMUD customer monthly bill—was initiated in 2008.



Funds from the surcharge were used to help develop residential and commercial solar capacity throughout SMUD's territory. Overall, the funds will have helped build approximately 125 megawatts of solar generation over the last 10 years. This includes incentives for residential and commercial customer solar installations, Smart Home developments, and SolarShares™ developments. A recent example of how these funds were used is the \$1.4 million awarded to the Sacramento International Airport to support their installation of two new solar arrays totaling 6.8 megawatts in capacity.

Per the state mandate, the SB-1 solar surcharge was in effect until SMUD had collected \$130 million. SMUD reached that cap in late December and immediately removed the surcharge. SMUD has disbursed approximately \$125 million of these funds to date and will disburse the remaining funds by the end of 2020.

Per earlier approval by the SMUD Board of Directors of the Chief Executive Officer & General Manager's Report & Recommendation on Rates and Services, a rate increase of 1.5 percent for all residential customers and one percent for all business customers took effect on January 1, 2018. With the removal of the SB-1 solar surcharge, the average residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours per month of electricity will now see an average net increase of about \$0.42 per month (\$1.62 average increase due to the rate increase less an average \$1.20 SB-1 solar surcharge). Removing the surcharge from business customer bills will, on average, offset the entire one-percent rate increase. **NWPPA**

KEC Names New CFO

Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Hayden, Idaho) is pleased to announce the addition of **Reed Christensen** as chief financial officer. Christensen most recently worked for Itron as the Northern America regional controller in Liberty Lake, Wash.

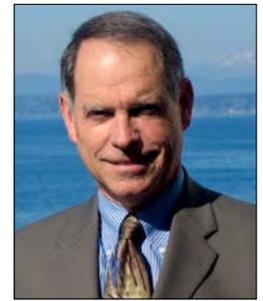
In his new role, he is responsible for the financial integrity of the cooperative and for all accounting processes and procedures, including supervising accounting staff.

Christensen graduated from Brigham Young University with his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting; he holds an active CPA license. **NWPPA**



OPALCO Board Vacancy Filled

This month, **Peter Garlock** joined the OPALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) Board of Directors to fill the vacancy created by **Jim Lett** upon his retirement. The OPALCO Board appointed Garlock to the position at the December board meeting. The volunteer member Election & Governance Committee reviewed four applications for the vacancy. All candidates were interviewed by the EGC and also by the board.



Garlock has nearly 40 years of experience managing and leading large technology organizations. He currently serves as the director of Information Technology for the Port of Seattle. He and his wife divide their time between Seattle and Lopez Island. Garlock earned his MBA and served in the U.S. Air Force.

"As a part-time resident, I will bring an important perspective to the board. I believe this large group of members is currently under-represented," said Garlock. "In addition, I bring substantial experience in delivering business, technology, and process solutions to complex requirements in a public sector and represented labor environment."

Garlock will serve until the next District 3 (Lopez, Decatur, Center, and Charles islands) election in 2019, at which time he intends to run for the position. **NWPPA**

Columbia REA's CEO Announces Retirement

Les Teel, CEO of Columbia REA (Walla Walla, Wash.), has announced his retirement after working 47 years in the industry. His retirement will become effective July 9, 2018. The board of directors for CREA has retained the executive search service from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to facilitate the selection of the next CEO.

"Working at Columbia REA has been the highlight of my career," he said at a recent all-employee meeting. "I will miss interacting with such a great group of employees and a cooperative with a very bright future." He also expressed his thanks to the board of directors of the cooperative, who have been supportive of his management.

Teel began his career in 1971, obtaining his certificate of electrical engineering and followed that with a degree in business management. Throughout his career, he held the positions of operation manager, assistant manager, and CEO at Thumb Electric Cooperative, Southeastern Energy Cooperative, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, and Columbia REA.

"Les has led the cooperative through a time of tremendous growth and has positioned the company for a positive future. Les has always been a great supporter of our communities and especially our children," said Board President **Katie Wooldridge**. "The board of directors wishes Les well in his retirement, and thanks him for the positive momentum he has instilled here. His shoes will be hard to fill."

Teel plans to remain in the Dayton, Wash., area. **NWPPA**

Orchard Named CMUA Board President

SMUD CEO **Arlen Orchard** is serving as board president of the California Municipal Utilities Association in 2018.



The CMUA Board of Governors appointed Orchard, a longstanding member of the CMUA Executive Committee, as president at its meeting last month.

“We’re excited to welcome Arlen as board president during what will be an eventful, transformative year for CMUA as we continue advocating for publicly owned utilities and water agencies in California on a range of important issues,” said **Barry Moline**, CMUA executive director. “Arlen’s leadership and vision for the future will be a big asset in 2018.”

Orchard succeeds **John Rossi**, who retired as general manager of the Western Municipal Water District at the end of 2017, capping more than 30 years working in the water industry.

As CEO of SMUD, Orchard leads the sixth largest consumer-owned electric utility in the nation, serving 1.4 million residents across Sacramento County and nearby communities. He joined SMUD in 1990 as a staff attorney and became the utility’s general counsel in 2001. He was named CEO in 2014.

Under Orchard’s leadership, SMUD has pursued several forward-looking initiatives, such as partnering with Valley Clean Energy Alliance to provide Community Choice Aggregator services, and the launch of a new online marketplace offering SMUD customers energy-related and smart-home products and services.

Orchard serves on the boards of directors of the Large Public Power Council, NWPPA, Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council, and Valley Vision. Orchard also serves on a national commission launched in fall 2017 by the Alliance to Save Energy that will develop recommendations to reduce energy use in the U.S. transportation sector by 50 percent by 2050 while meeting future mobility needs. **NWPPA**



Download the latest materials today at www.nwppa.org/mpt.

Grant’s \$77M Refinance Hits Budget Goal

Grant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.) has refinanced \$77 million in outstanding debt to reduce finance costs, help hold a planned 2018 rate-revenue increase to two percent, and more equitably align debt burden to the life of the assets it finances—a big fairness boost to customers.



“This transaction increases customer value by spreading the debt burden over the multiple generations who will benefit from the equipment upgrades it financed,” said **Bonnie Overfield**, senior manager of Finance.

The transaction refinances bonds of varying maturity dates through 2023 into a single new issue of 30-year bonds. The sale became final on December 20.

The deal does not add to Grant PUD’s \$1.3 billion in debt, Overfield said. It locks in an interest rate that will reduce long-term debt liability by approximately \$12 million, and saves \$1-1.5 million in consulting, underwriting, and staff time by refinancing the older bond issues as a single, advanced-refunding transaction.

The debt restructuring comes just ahead of proposed federal tax reforms that, if approved as currently proposed, would prohibit advanced refunding, potentially increasing refinancing costs by millions. Fast action by Grant PUD’s financial team and executive managers identified the costly risk of waiting to restructure the debt and completed this complex deal weeks before a vote on the proposed tax reforms.

“A significant amount of credit is due also to PUD commissioners for having the insight and faith in staff to authorize and execute this financing,” Overfield said. “It’s a win-win for both the PUD and our customers.” **NWPPA**

Salem Electric Recognizes Long-Term Employees

At Salem Electric’s (Ore.) annual dinner on January 12, employees were recognized for their years of dedicated service: Engineering Technician **Shannon Rockne** received a 25-year service award, Energy Specialist **Willie Ball** received a 30-year service award, and Equipment Operator **Randy Adkins** received a 40-year service award. **NWPPA**



Willie Ball



Randy Adkins

SnoPUD Ranks High in Satisfaction

Snohomish County PUD (Everett, Wash.) has been ranked third nationally in business customer satisfaction among a group of large electric utilities in the 2017 E Source Large Customer Gap & Priority Benchmark Survey. E Source surveyed more than 1,300 large business customers to identify the best utilities for business customer satisfaction.



“The E Source business surveys give us invaluable insights about our customers to help us improve our account management, increase trust, and better serve our customers,” said PUD Assistant General Manager of Customer and Energy Services **Jim West**.

E Source noted that the PUD scored high in account management, but the utility’s real strength and the primary reason for its high ranking was due to top marks in utility satisfaction and perceived value. The PUD’s large business customers specifically noted the utility’s ability to offer a variety of rates, programs, and services, and to provide useful information.

The PUD has a longstanding commitment to helping its customers use energy wisely. In 2017, it again surpassed its energy conservation goals, reaching multiple business sectors including retail, manufacturing, office buildings, restaurants, and public-sector organizations. Major efficiency projects were completed with multiple customers including Boeing, Providence Regional Medical Center, Canyon Creek Cabinet Company, and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

NWPPA

New Monthly Generation Record for Columbia

Energy Northwest’s Columbia Generating Station (Richland, Wash.) sent more than 867 million kilowatt-hours of electricity to the Northwest power grid in December, a new record for monthly generation. The previous record was set in January 2016: 860.8 million net kilowatt-hours.

Alex Javorik, Energy Northwest vice president for Engineering, credited both recent plant upgrades, which boosted Columbia’s output, and good teamwork for the record-breaking performance.

Columbia also performs more efficiently during the cold winter months. For instance, Columbia set a record for July generation last year, producing nearly 856 million kilowatt-hours, or about 11 million kilowatt-hours less than December’s total.

During December, Columbia operated at a 104.4-percent capacity factor. Capacity factor is a ratio based on the maximum amount of electricity the plant could send to the grid at the most restrictive time of the year, which for thermal power plants is during summer.

The nuclear energy plant, the third largest generator of electricity in Washington state, set annual generation records in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016. During its lifetime, Columbia has produced more than 240 billion kilowatt-hours of carbon-free electricity. NWPPA

Lisa Hall Joins Truckee Donner PUD

The Truckee Donner PUD (Truckee, Calif.) has hired **Lisa Hall**, MBA, CPA as director of administrative services. This position is critical in furthering TDPUD’s efforts to provide world-class customer service along with effectively managing TDPUD’s accounting and finance functions. Hall beat out a field of very strong candidates and has an impressive background in senior management and accounting.



“I am very excited to join Truckee Donner PUD’s management team and build upon the solid foundation that exists today,” she said. “I look forward to being a part of the Truckee community and working to enhance TDPUD’s efforts to efficiently serve customers.”

TDPUD’s interview committee, which included TDPUD staff plus a peer professional from outside TDPUD, selected Hall from a pool of qualified candidates that emerged after a national recruitment conducted by an executive recruitment firm. The TDPUD interview committee was impressed with Hall’s previous experience and accomplishments as a chief financial officer at an academic institution, and as a manager of financial and office services at an electric utility. She is experienced in negotiating with financial institutions, insurance companies, and labor unions.

“We are fortunate to be able to bring this level of talent to our organization and the Truckee community,” said **Michael Holley**, TDPUD’s general manager. “Lisa will play a key role in our efforts to respond to changes in the electric and water industries and to find innovative ways to serve our customers.”

NWPPA

MEA Board Announces Rate Decrease

Matanuska Electric Association’s (Alaska) typical members (using approximately 680 kilowatt-hours of electricity) saw a total decrease of about 2.6 percent (or \$3.80/month) to their overall bill as a result of first-quarter adjustments to the base and COPA rates, effective January 2, 2018.



The MEA Board of Directors voted on November 13, 2017, to authorize a decrease in base rates of 2.0 percent, which was recently approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. In addition to the base rate adjustment, MEA has requested a reduction of 3.9 percent to the quarterly Cost of Power Adjustment rate, subject to final RCA approval.

Under the terms of rules set by the RCA, MEA is allowed on a quarterly basis to file for limited increases or decreases in base rates, provided that the adjustments stay within certain financial parameters established by the RCA. The COPA rate fluctuates quarterly based on current fuel and purchased power costs. NWPPA

Dri Pro Shirts Unveiled by DragonWear

DragonWear® has introduced its new base layer series for men and women: Dri Pro™. The short-sleeve fire-resistant shirts are CAT 1 and meet relevant industry certifications for the utilities, industrial safety, and petrochemical markets.

You won't underperform if you overprepare in the NEW Dri Pro™ short-sleeve base layer that guards you against fire and arc flash hazards. Made in the USA with new DragonWear® Inherent Tri-Blend FR Fabric, which was originally developed and tested by the U.S. military, this CAT 1 base layer offers unmatched comfort and superior, always-permanent moisture management. Increased fabric strength and proven wash-and-wear performance provide long-lasting durability, while True-Flat™ high-density seams, tagless garment labels, and improved stretch give the wearer a true comfort experience all day long. Odor resistant, anti-microbial fabric that is highly breathable and fast-drying make this shirt a must have for any environment. Offered in navy and tan, shirts are available in both men and women's fits (navy only).

DragonWear®, a division of True North Gear®, is a manufacturer of innovative, performance-based FR and arc-rated clothing for the utility, industrial safety, and petrochemical industries. For more information, visit dragonwear.com. **NWPPA**



HDR Hires Delwiche

Former Bonneville Power Administration deputy administrator **Greg Delwiche** has joined HDR as a senior strategic consultant for power, based in HDR's Portland, Ore., office.

In his new role with HDR, Delwiche will advise HDR on its electric utility services business and will work closely with the asset management team, particularly in the Pacific Northwest.

Delwiche has more than 30 years of experience with Pacific Northwest energy management and natural resources policy issues. He comes to HDR from BPA, which he joined in 1992. In his time with BPA, Delwiche held four executive positions, most recently as deputy administrator. Prior to his first executive post at BPA, Delwiche served in several management roles within the firm's power operations planning organization.

Prior to joining BPA, Delwiche held various technical and team lead positions in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division Reservoir Control Center.

He received a bachelor's of science in civil engineering from the University of Florida and a master of science in civil engineering from Oregon State University.

He was inducted into Oregon State University's Academy of Distinguished Engineers in 2011. In 2015 he was honored with the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service, the highest-level award for executives in federal government.

For more than a century, HDR has partnered with clients to shape communities and push the boundaries of what's possible. Their expertise spans 10,000 employees, in more than 225 locations around the world—and counting. For more information, visit www.hdrinc.com. **NWPPA**

NEEA Announces 2018 Board of Directors

On January 10, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, a non-profit alliance of utilities and energy efficiency organizations working to accelerate energy efficiency in the Northwest, recognized several new members who have joined for the 2017-2018 term.

New members this year include: **Jim Baggs**, Seattle City Light; **Steve Bicker**, Tacoma Power; **Dan James**, Bonneville Power Administration; **Dan Johnson**, Avista Utilities; **Scott Pugrud**, Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources; and **Bonnie Rouse**, Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

The 2018 officers are: Board Chair **John Francisco**, Inland Power and Light Company; Vice Chair **Cory Scott**, Pacific Power; Secretary **Michael Colgrove**, Energy Trust of Oregon; and Treasurer **Andrew Grassell**, Chelan Public Utility District.

"Here in the Northwest, we are fortunate to have the guidance of some of the foremost experts in energy efficiency," said NEEA Executive Director **Susan E. Stratton**. "We rely on their leadership and insights to help shape the future of our alliance."

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance is an alliance of more than 140 utilities and energy efficiency organizations working on behalf of more than 13 million energy consumers. For more information on NEEA board meetings or other NEEA events, visit NEEA's calendar at nea.org/get-involved/calendar. **NWPPA**

USAF Certifies Senstar's FlexZone

Last month, Senstar announced that FlexZone, its newest generation ranging fence-mounted intrusion detection sensor, has been certified to protect critical assets at U.S. Air Force bases worldwide. FlexZone joins a number of other Senstar products on the USAF's Approved Equipment List, including the OmniTrax® buried intrusion detection sensor and the UltraWave™ microwave intrusion detection sensor.

FlexZone, along with the rest of Senstar's portfolio of perimeter security technologies, provides early warning of intrusions along the perimeter of a site-triggering deterrent devices such as security lighting or sirens, cueing up camera systems, and directing security personnel.

Current Senstar products approved to protect USAF sites are FlexZone fence-mounted sensor, OmniTrax Buried Line Sensor, UltraWave Microwave Sensor, and the DTR-90 taut wire system. FlexZone, OmniTrax, and UltraWave provide a natural upgrade path to previously approved older generation products, namely the FPS-2-2R fence-mounted sensor, Sentrax and Perimitrax Buried Line Sensors, and the Racon series of Microwave Sensors.

Senstar has been safeguarding people, places, and property with the world's largest portfolio of perimeter intrusion detection sensors for over 35 years. For more information, visit www.senstar.com, www.YouTube.com/SenstarCorp, or www.twitter.com/SenstarCorp. **NWPPA**

Innovari Names Kristen Magnuson DeCozio as CFO

Innovari, Inc., a leading utility platform provider, has announced that **Kristen Magnuson DeCozio** has been appointed chief financial officer for the company; she will have responsibility for all financial accounting and planning aspects of the company worldwide.

Magnuson DeCozio joined Innovari from Achilles Technology Solutions LLC, where she served as chief financial officer for the designer and producer of tailored body armor plates.

Her experience includes serving 12 years as the chief financial officer of JDA Software, a Nasdaq stock exchange company that grew four-fold during her tenure to nearly \$400 million in total revenues. She also held CFO and board positions at several other technology companies.

“Kristen is an accomplished financial operations leader and joins Innovari at an important time in our evolution,” said **Chris Hickman**, CEO and founder of Innovari. “Her global experience will help drive our success with the projects we are executing with our utility partners in nine countries.”

Magnuson DeCozio has 30-plus years of broad-based experience in technology-related finance and operations. This includes the raising of over \$1 billion in capital including debt financing, IPO, as well as secondary and private equity rounds. Over her career, she has served in senior financial roles with Webtrends, Michaels Stores, Inc., and Merabank. She started her career as an audit principal with Ernst & Young. This broad expertise will be key to facilitate Innovari’s support for utilities in their virtual power plant and distributed energy resources planning, as well as helping the company’s national retail partners create unique and effective partnerships with their utility.

Innovari has created the platform for utilities to build the grid of the future in partnership with their customers and communities. Learn more at www.innovari.com. **NWPPA**

Commonwealth Names New COO

Commonwealth Associates, Inc. has named **Samuel R. Barnes, P.E.**, as the firm’s new chief operating officer. In this role, he will oversee the daily operation, health, and efficiency of the organization and drive growth and innovation that increases value creation for Commonwealth’s clients.

Barnes joined Commonwealth in 2012 to launch and develop the firm’s Power Generation and Energy Department. His leadership generally, and specifically in the department’s growth, led to the 2016 appointment of Barnes as the firm’s executive vice president, a title he retains.

Barnes holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Michigan, where he also earned his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering. He is active and visible in the industry through his leadership and service on conference planning committees, to include COAL-GEN, Electric Power, and the CIGRE U.S. National Committee. He also is recognized in the community for his work as chairman of the board of trustees at Jackson College in Jackson, Mich.

Chief Executive Officer **Richard Collins** said, “Since his arrival, Sam’s passion, energy, and dedication to the growth and success of the firm, its professionals, and our clients have been obvious. Combined with his significant technical expertise and strong business acumen, he was a natural choice for this newly established key role.”

Commonwealth is an *EC&M Magazine* 2017 Top 10 engineering consultancy committed to influencing and shaping the secure energy future. For more information, visit www.cai-engr.com. **NWPPA**



Key Aspect to NuScale Design Approved

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has concluded that application of NuScale Power’s novel safety design approach eliminates the need for class 1E power for its small modular reactor. Class 1E is the regulatory standard set for the design of safety-related nuclear power plant electrical systems. In its newly released Safety Evaluation Report, the NRC approves NuScale Power’s “Safety Classification of Passive Nuclear Power Plant Electrical Systems” Licensing Topical Report, where the company established the bases of how a design can be safe without reliance on any safety-related electrical power. Currently, all nuclear plants in the U.S. are required to have class 1E power supplies to ensure safety. The NRC has limited its approval to only NuScale Power’s design. NRC’s conclusion is a key step in the review process of NuScale’s Power Module Design Certification Application.

“Our approach to safety is a first in the nuclear industry and exemplifies the inherent safety of NuScale’s SMR,” said

NuScale Power Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nuclear Officer **Dale Atkinson**. “This validation brings us another step closer to achieving our mission of delivering scalable advanced nuclear technology to produce the electricity, process heat, and clean water needed to improve the quality of life for people around the world.”

The NRC’s review of NuScale’s DCA began March 2017 and the NRC’s final report approving the design is expected to be complete by September 2020. Once approved, certified NuScale SMRs will be available to domestic customers to be licensed for construction and operation. NuScale Power is the only company to have submitted an SMR DCA.

NuScale Power, LLC is developing a new kind of nuclear plant; a safer, smaller, scalable version of pressurized water reactor technology—a technology initially developed and tested at Oregon State University. For more information, visit www.nuscalepower.com or www.twitter.com/NuScale_Power.

NWPPA

NWPPA's Legislative & Regulatory Program Advances Member Interest at the Regional and National Level

By Nicole Case

A key aspect of the work NWPPA does for its members is the Legislative & Regulatory program. The goal of the L&R Program, as established by the NWPPA Board of Trustees, is to advance a West-wide legislative and regulatory agenda both regionally and nationally. With a focus solely on federal issues, NWPPA staff and consultants provide advocacy tools for members and aid members in communicating with stakeholders. Activity on key policy issues is monitored and communicated to the membership. L&R Program staff and consultants seek out collaborative and strategic partnerships to the benefit of members.

As we head into the new year, here is a look ahead at the value provided by your L&R Program:

2018 resolutions

The program is driven by policy goals agreed upon by the membership and reflected in annual resolutions. NWPPA currently has 17 active resolutions and keeps a record of all inactive resolutions. These 17 resolutions set the policy agenda of the L&R Program, guiding its actions and providing direction for advocacy, monitoring, and communications.

NWPPA began its annual review of active resolutions on January 5 of this year. The membership was invited to submit new or revised resolutions for review. All newly proposed and revised resolutions will be made available for review and comment, then voted on by a committee of NWPPA members. This committee—the Resolutions Committee—has prepared a slate of resolutions for consideration by the Government Relations Committee at the March 2018 Board of Trustees meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Board-approved resolutions will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho, on May 21, 2018.

Membership participation in this process is essential to the L&R Program. Throughout the resolutions process, the membership is invited to participate through email notices, and all proposed and revised resolutions are made available at nwppa.org/government-relations. Final resolutions are used to guide all policy actions taken by NWPPA.

Joint Federal Policy Conference and Rally

In partnership with the Northern California Power Agency, NWPPA's L&R Program takes 15-20 of its members to Washington, D.C., each spring. Armed with talking points, issue papers, and our legislative handbook, NWPPA members meet with members of Congress from our members' states, key congressional leaders, regulatory decisionmakers, and agency

staff. Over three full days in Washington, D.C., members make over 40 visits, spreading our unique regional messages on policy issues represented by active resolutions.

Because this opportunity allows NWPPA members to present member-specific issues to members of Congress and the Administration, this annual event is the cornerstone of NWPPA's L&R Program. Relationships developed and nurtured during these meetings help advance NWPPA's legislative and regulatory agendas throughout the year.

This year, the 2018 Joint Federal Policy Conference and Rally will be held from April 15-18. Seventeen NWPPA member representatives from eight states have committed to attend the event. NWPPA is preparing materials to cover important policy issues such as reforming hydropower licensing, preserving tax-exempt municipal bonds, protecting the power marketing administrations, improving the efficiency of permitting vegetation management in rights of way, reforming the endangered species, and providing disaster funding for wildfire suppression. These issues will be refined and modified the closer we get to April 15.

August recess messaging and district dialogue

During the historically long August Congressional recess, NWPPA members have opportunities to meet with their senators and members of Congress. In preparation for the meet and greets and town halls occurring all over the region, NWPPA distributes messages on key issues. If desired, NWPPA will hold a webinar to discuss the issues and provide strategic advice on presentation to key members of Congress.

NWPPA also takes advantage of the availability of members of Congress to meet with constituents during this time by hosting a dialogue between NWPPA members and a key member of Congress. This District Dialogue provides an opportunity for a small group of NWPPA members to meet face to face with a member of Congress to introduce NWPPA and discuss important policy issues. In the past, the District Dialogue has provided NWPPA members an opportunity to educate a new member of Congress on policy issues likely to arise regarding Northwest consumer-owned utilities. NWPPA has also hosted a dialogue with a senior member of Congress that sits on key committees. Planning for the District Dialogue begins in June 2018.

Membership communications

Throughout the year, NWPPA's L&R Program keeps members up to date on the latest happenings in Washington, D.C., through three forms of communications: *Bulletin* articles, the weekly eBulletin, and GRC notices through email.

Bulletin—NWPPA’s award-winning monthly magazine provides an opportunity for the L&R Program to highlight and expand on a policy issue or event. The *Bulletin’s* monthly D.C. column provides in-depth coverage on specific policy issues, congressional outlooks, and reports on the annual Federal Policy Conference and Rally.

eBulletin—The weekly eBulletin includes a targeted report on activity in Washington, D.C. It is through this weekly report that NWPPA’s D.C. lobbyist, Elizabeth Whitney of Meguire Whitney, provides a short synopsis on issues important to NWPPA members—issues that were identified during the resolutions process. To receive the weekly eBulletin by email, NWPPA members can select this service through their account (listed under “My Communication Preferences”) at www.nwppa.org.

GRC notices and calls to action—The L&R Program maintains an email list for late-breaking activity on policy issues and for calls for member action on issues. If you are interested in receiving these emails, contact Nicole Case at nicole@nwppa.org.

GRC meetings

Finally, the L&R Program holds three GRC meetings every year: the day before the NWPPA Board of Trustees meetings in March and September, and during the Annual Meeting in May. At these meetings, NWPPA’s regulatory and legislative consultants report on recent actions taken, as well as the current state of issues and L&R Program events. All members are invited to attend these meetings. A list of meetings and locations is available at nwppa.org.

NWPPA’s L&R Program gears itself toward advancing NWPPA members’ collective interests in Washington, D.C., and the region through the use of strategic partnerships with regional and national associations; communication tools for reporting and advocacy; and the support of its members. The current pace of change in the electric utility industry continues to challenge NWPPA members, but your L&R Program is geared to rise to this challenge and successfully advance NWPPA members’ interests in Washington, D.C., and the region. **NWPPA**

Nicole Case is NWPPA’s legislative consultant and can be reached at nicole@nwppa.org.



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Free EV Charging Stations Expected to Boost Cordova's Coastal Alaskan Economy

By Brenda Dunn

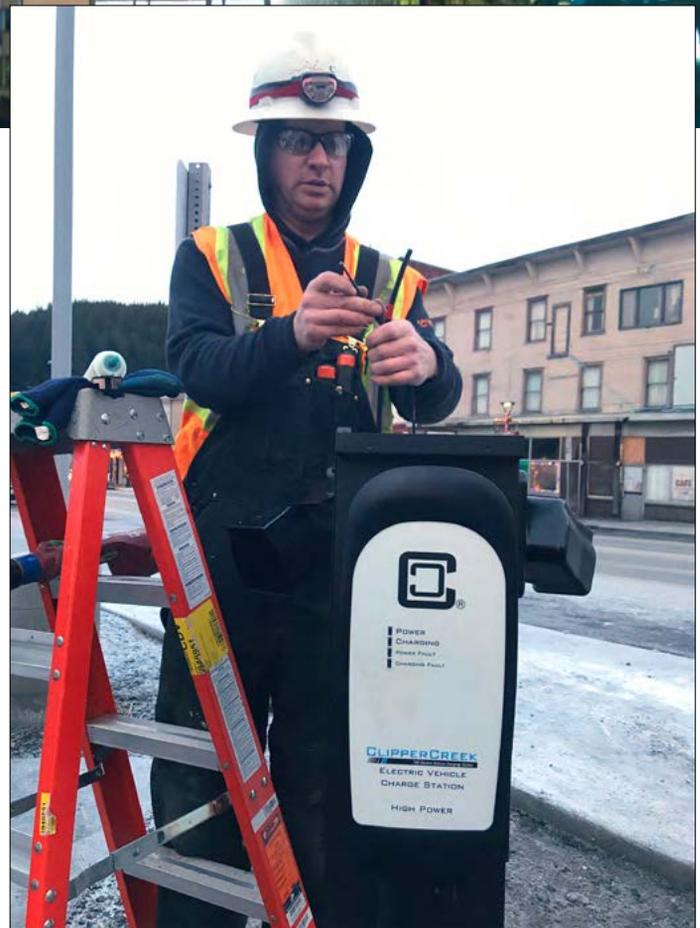


Cordova, Alaska, is a tiny town with a lot to offer on the southern coast of the state. Less than 2,500 people live there and they can only access Cordova via a ferry or aircraft. Previously the Razor Clam Capital of the World, commercial fishing is still the main industry in the city. There are two public schools: Mt. Eccles Elementary School, a National Blue Ribbon School; and Cordova Jr./Sr. High School, an award-winning combined middle/high school. Cordova Electric Cooperative, with a small staff of 16 full-time employees, owns and operates all power production and distribution facilities for the whole community.

And as of December 21, the cooperative now owns four electric vehicle charging stations in the city's center.

Cordova Electric Cooperative CEO Clay Koplín, who is also the town's mayor, believes that this installation has brought his city one step closer to becoming a more renewable, self-sustaining community. He explained that the benefits are twofold: the lower price of locally produced electricity supports Cordova's economic self-sufficiency, which is the strategic goal of the City of Cordova; and selling more hydroelectricity helps increase renewable power production to 90 percent of energy sales by 2025, which is the strategic goal of Cordova Electric Cooperative.

The EV stations are a very progressive project on their own, but even more so when you learn how many EVs are currently registered in Cordova: one Tesla. However, as part of its holistic renewable plan, CEC is purchasing a used Nissan Leaf that can be loaned to its membership.



Ben Simpler, a CEC apprentice lineman and member of IBEW Local 1547, installs one of the four ClipperCreek charging stations in downtown Cordova. Photo by Clay Koplín.

Koplin believes that once CEC's membership has the opportunity to see how well EVs handle on their winter roads and they experience the quick acceleration and sporty feel, adoption will get an even bigger boost.

"Our dream is for Cordova to be 100-percent renewable," said Koplin. "EVs will play an important role in that. They can become a storage element of our Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium smart grid development work, in partnership with the Department of Energy and other national labs, by sinking excess hydro to vehicle batteries for later use, which results in our community becoming cleaner and stronger as the grid gains resiliency."

There are currently few public car charging stations in Anchorage, Alaska's largest city of over 300,000, which underscores the innovation and progressivity of Cordova and CEC's project. The City of Cordova is pressing innovation and renewables wherever possible, and has attracted international interest in their successful practices. Cordova hopes to lead the effort to move this conversation forward for many rural Alaskan communities and cities.

"In my mind, CEC has 40 years of sustained vision and execution, and the things that are marvelous now — like 100-percent underground power lines that survived the recent 108-mph storm without a single outage in the system — are the result of a 38-year overhead to underground conversion," said Koplin. "We have to continuously plant seeds that will bear fruit years or decades from now, even as we chop down the fine old trees that are no longer producing. The EV charging station project was a seed."

However, Koplin won't take all of the credit for the idea; the member-owners of CEC actually requested charging stations, indicating that it would influence their decision to purchase an electric vehicle. In a fortunate twist, CEC realized that it would be most cost-effective to not charge a fee for the stations.

"Research indicated that the affordable way to provide EV stations is to avoid the costly billing electronics and software that just don't hold up in our weather. It costs CEC less to provide the public charging service for free, so that's what we're doing," said Koplin. "As a cooperative owned by the electrical members, the least costly way to provide the service is to make it free in town and bill normal rates at home."

CEC and the City of Cordova had collaborated on the stations for months, working with businesses and residents to identify locations that would have the greatest positive impact on parking, business development, social functions, and the



CEC CEO and Cordova Mayor Clay Koplin believes the chargers will bring more electric vehicles (like the Tesla he is charging in this photo) to Cordova and propel the city along on its quest to be 100-percent renewable. Photo by John Harvill.

local economy. The new centerpiece of Cordova, the Cordova Center, was selected as the preferred site. That is where Cordova residents and visitors can now access two charging stations in the First Street parking lot serving the business district, and two charging stations in the lower parking lot serving the waterfront businesses and harbor.

"The public chargers are for people to boost up when low and for visitors with EVs to charge in Cordova, but the placement of them is very intentional," said Koplin. "I believe they will also help encourage people to spend time and money with Main Street businesses and activities."

CEC's deployment plan includes installations by homeowners and businesses who have indicated interest, with CEC advising on charging station alternatives. The new ClipperCreek

continued

charging stations that were selected will provide about 20 miles of driving range with a one-hour charge.

“If demand grows as rapidly in Cordova as it has in other coastal Alaskan communities, we will soon feel the pressure for more charging stations,” said Koplin.

“I like the option of being able to own an electric car, bike, or scooter now,” said Sylvia Lange, owner of the Reluctant Fisherman, an iconic hotel and restaurant in the harbor. “Electric vehicles are here to stay—it’s great to have this option in Cordova.”

In addition to serving the community, the charging stations are expected to attract and accommodate visitors to Cordova via the Alaska Marine Highway System.

“The Tesla users group is looking for communities with electric vehicle charging stations to visit,” said John Harvill, the Cordova Tesla owner and member of the Alaska Tesla Users Group.

For the most part, Cordova residents reacted positively to the new additions. Mike Webber posted on Facebook: “Thanks CEC for the free hook up station! This really encourages our family to purchase a new electric car! I bet we will see ten electric cars by this time next year! Thanks Clay And team players.” Another resident, Bruce Cain, wrote this on CEC’s Facebook page: “Glad to see this. I remember the vision we came up with more than 10 years ago at the C.R.E.W. ‘Cordova, a petroleum free community.’ This is a big step toward

realizing the vision. Good job and keep up the good work.”

However, not everyone is sold on the EV vision and charger installations. A handful of residents voiced their concern that all CEC members would end up footing the bill for stations that would only be used by a few people in the community. They also asked why EV owners could not charge their vehicles at home instead of the city paying to install public chargers. Koplin asked for patience from the naysayers to see the plan come to fruition, reiterating that the plan makes sense for Cordova.

“We don’t build for yesterday or tomorrow,” he said. “We build for our grandchildren, who may never see a gasoline pump in their generation.”

Cordova may still resemble the Razor Clam Capital of the World in many ways, but change is coming, and Koplin believes it is what is best for the community he leads and loves. Today, an EV charged in Anchorage can drive the 60 miles to the Whittier ferry terminal and recharge their vehicle when they get to Cordova. According to plugshare.com, locating a charger in Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska, may be more difficult than finding one in coastal Alaska. Koplin calls that progress.

NWPPA

Brenda Dunn is the editor at NWPPA. She can be contacted at brenda@nwppa.org.



The placement of the chargers in the Cordova Center parking lots will hopefully encourage people to spend time and money with Main Street businesses and activities. Photo by Clay Koplin.

RADIANCE Project Will Also Boost Cordova Economy

Electric vehicle charging stations are not the only economic boost Cordova Electric Cooperative is bringing to the city: an innovative three-year microgrid modernization effort, called RADIANCE, is set to begin in Cordova this year. This project is anticipated to make significant advances to microgrid technology applications from the smallest rural Alaskan utilities to the continental American power grid.

At the end of 2017, leading experts from the U.S. Department of Energy met with various national laboratories and statewide associations at the Cordova Center to strategize the implementation of RADIANCE.

In Cordova, the project will build on the modeling, optimization, and installation of a grid-scale battery that will liberate 500 kilowatts of currently wasted hydroelectricity at about one-tenth the cost of developing new hydro. That effort, led by Imre Gyuk, who is the director of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability of the DOE, is expected to be in service in late 2018 and will interface with RADIANCE efforts. This and other value streams are projected to save over 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually in Cordova and improve power quality.

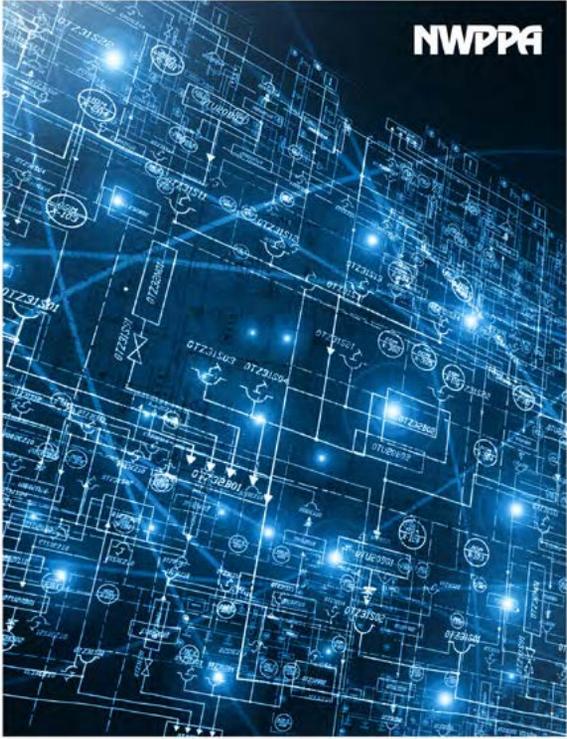
The DOE is invested in developing tools and technologies to establish a more resilient, secure, sustainable, and reliable electricity system across the nation; in September 2017, they announced awards of up to \$50 million to DOE's National Laboratories to improve the resiliency of the nation's critical energy infrastructure, including the electrical grid. This innovation effort at DOE selected Cordova, Alaska, as one of the premier locations to develop and implement new technology and, in turn, CEC has found a new partner in executing its Smart City vision for the coming years. The four primary goals of this project are resilience, multiple networked microgrids, cybersecurity, and field validation of resiliency enhancement methods.

"CEC is thrilled to partner with DOE's National Laboratories and leading experts to upgrade and improve Cordova's energy grid and resiliency," said Koplin, "The improvements we implement throughout this partnership with the Department of Energy will not only improve the energy efficiency and security of the people of Cordova, it will benefit rural Alaskans who depend on isolated microgrid use and potentially all Americans; this is public-private partnership at its best."



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2018
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Want an overview of the Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2), too? Attend the one-day class before the IT Conference on March 6.

Visit www.nwppa.org for more information and to register for both.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For more detailed information, visit www.nwppa.org/job.

The Job Opportunities is a service provided to NWPPA member systems and associate members. Member price is \$115 per listing for a 30-day period.

- Job Opportunities ads are also accepted from non-members. Ads are \$350 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: Spec II, Line Dispatch R18-072

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 19, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R18-072.

POSITION: Field Engineer

COMPANY: Inland Power & Light (Spokane, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 23, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.inlandpower.com/careers.

POSITION: Accounts Payable/Exec. Admin Assistant

COMPANY: Inland Power & Light (Spokane, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 23, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.inlandpower.com/careers.

POSITION: Supervisor II, Mechanical

COMPANY: Northern California Power Agency (Middletown, Calif.)

SALARY: \$61.63 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 28, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.ncpa.com/careers.

POSITION: Mechanical Engineer

COMPANY: Alaska Power & Telephone (Port Townsend, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 3, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit <https://careers-hrpsi.icims.com/jobs/2362/mechanical-engineer/login>.

POSITION: Consulting Engineer or Below - Electric Standards and Commodities #92661

COMPANY: Puget Sound Energy (Bellevue, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 28, 2018

TO APPLY: To apply, search for #92661 at pse.com/careers.

POSITION: Electrical Engineer IV (R18-074)

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 19, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R18-074.

POSITION: Substation Electrician Journeyman

COMPANY: Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.)

SALARY: \$43.89 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 20, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.bentonpud.org/careers.

POSITION: Fleet Maintenance Manager

COMPANY: Grant County PUD (Ephrata, Wash.)

SALARY: \$39.60 - \$55.44 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 28, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.appone.com/applinkportal.asp?R_ID=1849732&AdCode=NW00584704.

POSITION: Customer Service Representative

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

SALARY: \$18 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 28, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit <https://lakeviewlight.com>.

POSITION: Chief Executive Officer

COMPANY: Columbia Rural Electric Association (Dayton, Wash.)

SALARY: Commensurate with experience per month

DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 17, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit <http://columbiarea.com>.

POSITION: Accounting Manager

COMPANY: Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Missoula, Mont.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 20, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.missoulaelectric.com.

POSITION: **Manager of Finance**
COMPANY: Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Eureka, Mont.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 22, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.lincolnelectric.coop.

POSITION: **Line Superintendent**
COMPANY: Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 22, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.ghpud.org.

POSITION: **IT/GIS Administrator**
COMPANY: Douglas Electric Cooperative (Roseburg, Ore.)
SALARY: \$60,000 - \$80,000 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 21, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.dec.coop.

POSITION: **Operations Manager**
COMPANY: Southeast Alaska Power Agency (Ketchikan, Alaska)
SALARY: \$101,308 - \$126,920 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 22, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <https://seapahydro.applicantpro.com>.

POSITION: **Project Manager**
COMPANY: Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)
SALARY: \$77,840 - \$119,900 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 22, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.chelanpud.org.

POSITION: **Senior Network and System Administrator/Analyst**
COMPANY: Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (Baker City, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 19, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <https://otecc.com/careers>.

POSITION: **General Manager**
COMPANY: Hood River Electric Cooperative (Odell, Ore.)
SALARY: Commensurate with experience
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 10, 2018
TO APPLY: Email ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop.

POSITION: **Lineman**
COMPANY: Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Hayden, Idaho)
SALARY: \$44.71 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 6, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.kec.com.

POSITION: **Journeyman Meterman**
COMPANY: Central Lincoln PUD (Newport, Ore.)
SALARY: \$47.08 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 18, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cencoast>.

POSITION: **Journeyman Lineman**
COMPANY: United Electric Co-op, Inc. (Heyburn, Idaho)
SALARY: \$40.14 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 2, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <http://uec.coop/content/employment-opportunities>.

POSITION: **Journeyman Lineman**
COMPANY: Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.)
SALARY: \$45.35 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 2, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.opalco.com/jobs.

POSITION: **Staking Technician**
COMPANY: Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.)
SALARY: \$25.84 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 3, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.opalco.com/jobs.

POSITION: **Sr. Power Systems Project Coordinator**
COMPANY: PUD #1 of Clallam County (Carlsborg, Wash.)
SALARY: \$5,245-\$7,439 per month
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 2, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.clallampud.net.

POSITION: **Journeyman Lineman**
COMPANY: Northern Wasco County PUD (The Dalles, Ore.)
SALARY: \$45.79 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 28, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <https://www.nwasco.com/jobs.cfm>.

POSITION: **Engineering Manager**
COMPANY: PUD #1 of Clallam County (Carlsborg, Wash.)
SALARY: \$9,292 - \$13,177 per month
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 21, 2018
TO APPLY: Contact pprouse@mfpllc.us.

POSITION: **Journeyman Lineman**
COMPANY: City of Milton-Freewater (Milton-Freewater, Ore.)
SALARY: \$44.88 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 25, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.mfcity.com.

POSITION: **Electrical Distribution Engineer**
COMPANY: Salem Electric (Salem, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE per month
DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 28, 2018
TO APPLY: Contact jobs@salemelectric.com.

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