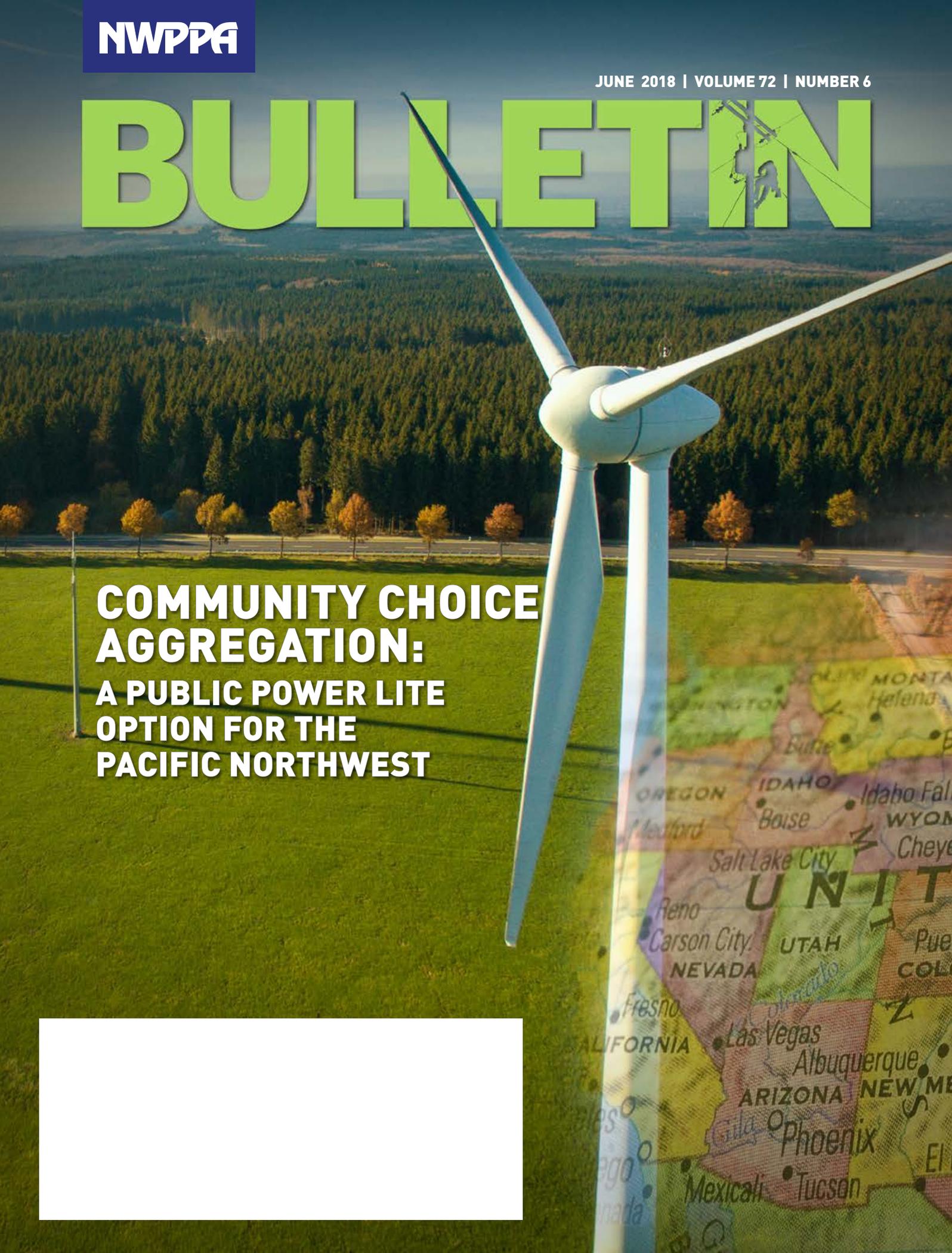


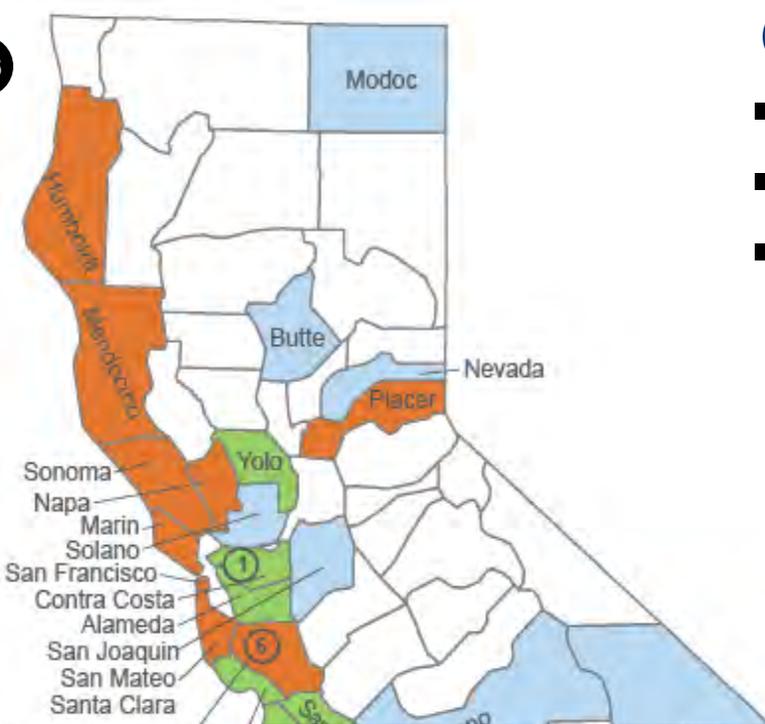
BULLETIN

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION: A PUBLIC POWER LITE OPTION FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



CCA Status in California

- Authorized via AB 117
- 25% of California Served via CCA
- 85% Projected by 2025



Operational

2018 Launch

Exploring / In Progress

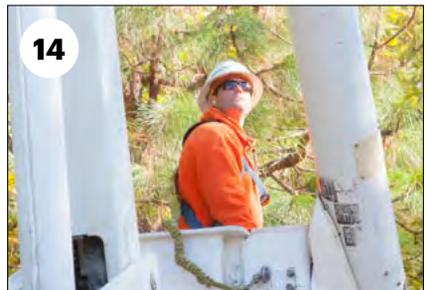
On the cover: Community choice aggregation is a utility business model of considerable interest. Seven states, including California, have already passed legislation authorizing public entities to form CCA organizations. Gary Saleba explains why looking at the CCA business model in the Pacific Northwest may be timely.

Opinions expressed in single articles are not necessarily policies of the Association. For permission to reprint articles, write or call the associate editor.

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NWPPA HONORS 2018'S ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Last month at its 78th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Boise, Idaho, NWPPA presented the following awards to individuals within the public power community.

Homer T. Bone Award

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has been a champion of public power rights during her time in public office, starting as an Alaska state representative and throughout her 15 years in the U.S. Senate. She was a co-sponsor of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Two years later, in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Murkowski sponsored several improvements to spur renewable energy development, particularly for hydroelectric, marine hydrokinetic, and geothermal power projects.

Paul J. Raver Community Service Award

Gary Hicks served the Asotin County PUD and the community for 32 years. He was elected into office in 1984 at the same time the Asotin County PUD No. 1 was authorized by the voters. Previous to the authorizing vote, Hicks was a champion for the formation of the PUD, actively working and campaigning to see it become a reality. Since its inception, Hicks guided the PUD with exceptional leadership and commitment. Hicks passed away on August 5, 2016.

Bryan Wolfe of Hermiston, Ore., has represented District No. 3 on the Umatilla Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 1997; he transitioned to board president in 2011. Wolfe has been a UEC Board officer during a period where the cooperative is expanding and rebuilding at a pace not seen at UEC in 40 years. Driven by growth in farming, food processing, and industry, UEC has become the largest electric cooperative in the 10 western states in terms of power sales.

Randy Smith has been a Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioner for 12 years. In that time, he has held every leadership role on the commission, including president. He was elected during a tumultuous time at the utility, providing a steady hand and reasoned approach. His wisdom helped guide the utility through the tough years of the 2008-11 recession, helping Chelan PUD rebound financially and in reputation with local customer-owners, as well as the broader region.

NWPPA President's Award

Duke Harris retired from the Clearwater Power Company (Lewiston, Idaho) Board of Directors on March 1, 2018, after serving over 39 years. Since joining the board in 1979, he had held the offices of president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer over the years. Harris was chosen by the Clearwater Power Board of Directors to be their Idaho Statewide Association representative as well as to represent the State of Idaho on

the NRECA Board of Directors, serving for six years.

Jim Petersen has been a member of the Vigilante Electric Cooperative (Dillon, Mont.) Board of Trustees for over 40 years. During that time, he has served as president, vice president, and trustee with the cooperative. He has also served as president and trustee of Montana Energy Alliance, a propane subsidiary owned partially by Vigilante Electric Cooperative. Petersen and his wife own a ranch and feedlot south of Dillon. He is a very strong family man, businessman, and community-involved leader.

William "Bill" McCorie Distinguished Service Award

For more than 46 years, **Ben Frantz** has served the public power industry through his long and distinguished career in the electric utility industry and through extensive volunteer service to his community and the industry. His career is a solid path of ascension at North Slope Borough Power & Light and later at Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative (Alaska), where he has served as its general manager for nearly 20 years.

General Manager **Doug Hardy** is well respected in the utility industry by many. He is a leader and go-to guy for questions on anything pertaining to co-ops and power. Outside of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, Hardy has participated on various industry boards and committees over the years, including the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (Great Falls, Mont.) Power Supply Committee, Legislative Committee (chairman), and Dues Formula Committee; ACRE Committee and its board of directors; and NWPPA Board of Trustees.

Associate Member Plaque of Appreciation

Dan Kessler of Cooperative Finance Corporation has been a strong supporter of NWPPA over the years and his organization has been an annual meeting sponsor many times throughout the years. He has a long, successful history in the Northwest with utilities, having also worked at a utility before being scooped up by CFC as their Northwest representative. Many have seen him on the golf course, but more have seen and experienced his helpfulness and training through his years with CFC.

Life Membership Award

This year there were five recipients: **Bill Gaines** of Tacoma Public Utilities (Wash.), **John Gerstenberger** of Hood River Electric Cooperative (Ore.), **Terry Kelly** of Salem Electric (Ore.), **Mark Reddemann** of Energy Northwest (Richland, Wash.), and **Les Teel** of Columbia REA (Walla Walla, Wash.).

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

78TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP MEETING SHINED IN BOISE

Did you miss the opportunity for illumination? Remember Dragnet and Sargent Joe Friday and his “just the facts ma’am”? Mark Mills hit it out of the park as the opening keynote speaker with just the facts, setting the stage for debate on batteries and electric vehicle penetration among other important topics. Mills was followed by our Gas to Grid presentation, which was a very different perspective on electrifying transportation. Arlen Orchard of SMUD and Thomas Wolff of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative provided some

actual experiences, business cases, and community partnerships. Randy Howard of NCPA and Gary Saleba of EES Consulting conveyed a different business case: how counties in California are starting their own energy-only public power utilities. (For more about CCAs, read this month’s cover story on pages 26-29.) Rob Roys then ended the first day by sharing ways to use microgrids to build resilience and improve system reliability before and after the storm. On day two, you missed shock and awe as Adrian Tuck of Tendril shared his

extraordinary journey of partnering with utilities to exceed customer expectations. It’s all about the data even without AMI. Consumer data is available and being used to improve home comfort, reduce energy costs, and exceed consumer expectations for over 30 million consumers today. Next, Carlos Gonzalez from Tesla reinforced a win-win-win for consumers and utilities while talking about large-scale and home-scale batteries. Mark Johnson, CEO and general manager of Flathead Electric Cooperative, followed Gonzalez with his own case study of



Clockwise from upper left: The Manhattan Institute's Mark Mills kicked off the meeting on Tuesday morning; Gary Saleba of EES Consulting and Randy Howard of NCPA talked about CCAs; Scott Corwin of PPC (center) moderated the CEO panel comprised of Kevin Nordt of Grant County PUD, Les Penning of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, Clay Fitch of Wells Rural Electric Co., and John Roukema of Silicon Valley Power; Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper and 2018-19 Board of Trustees President Jackie Flowers of Idaho Falls Power chatted after the mayor's welcome address; during his acceptance speech for the Distinguished Service Award, Ben Frantz of Barrow Utilities illustrated how much he's seen during his career by comparing a seal oil lamp and a rechargeable solar light; 2017-18 Board of Trustees President Steve Taylor of Mason County PUD No. 1, along with his wife Julie and two of their grandchildren, accepted a gift and presidential gavel at the banquet; over 300 people attended last month's Annual Conference & Membership Meeting; and Adrian Tuck of Tendril suggested everyone "see your customers as assets."

FEC's installation and monitoring of a Tesla Powerwall.

Dan Elmore from the Idaho National Labs provided a cyber update and Scott Corwin roasted and prodded our CEO panel into sharing some excellent ideas as they talked about how they are staying ahead of the changes and challenges we all face today. And then there was the closing keynote, Eric VanDerSluis, who shared the steps to retaining our valued workforce through developing those skills and experiences that make the difference between good and great.

During the business meeting on Tuesday, the membership elected new trustees and voted to adopt the 2018 legislative resolutions. On Wednesday, the NWPPA Annual Awards were handed out to acknowledge lifetime achievements on behalf of public power, community service, and service to NWPPA. (See pages 3 and 6 for more information.)

The NWPPA Gala Banquet closed out the event on Wednesday evening and honored President Steve Taylor for his service to NWPPA and all of our members.

At this year's Annual Meeting, we became more powerful together by listening, learning, and networking together for the good of public power. Mark your calendars for next year's event in Sacramento, Calif., May 19-22, 2019. For more photos from Boise, visit www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc. **NWPPA**





**2018-2019
NWPPA BOARD
OFFICERS,
TRUSTEES
ANNOUNCED**

Last month, the NWPPA Board of Trustees introduced Jackie Flowers of Idaho Falls Power (Idaho Falls, Idaho) as the 2018-2019 NWPPA Board of Trustees president. Flowers will serve a one-year term as board president.

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

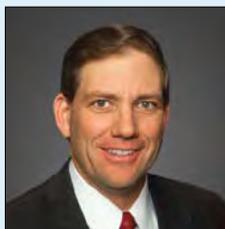
- First Vice President Scott Egbert of Wells Rural Electric Company (Wells, Nev.)
- Second Vice President Ron Holmes of Wasco Electric Cooperative (The Dalles, Ore.)
- Secretary/Treasurer Bradley Janorschke of Homer Electric Association (Alaska)
- Immediate Past President Steven Taylor of Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.)

Along with the officer announcements, the membership elected the following five members to serve a first three-year term on the NWPPA Board of Trustees: Tony Izzo of Matanuska Electric Association (Alaska), Stephan Lauzier of Anza Electric Cooperative (Calif.), Scott Sweeney of Fergus Electric Cooperative (Lewistown, Mont.), Mark Johnson of Flathead Electric Cooperative (Libby, Mont.), and Kevin Parrish of Emerald PUD (Eugene, Ore.).

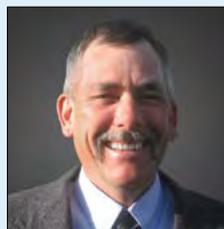
In addition to the above, Thomas Wolff of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative (Heppner, Ore.) was elected to fill a one-year unexpired term and Joe Wilson of Tacoma Power (Wash.) was elected to fill a two-year unexpired term. **NWPPA**



Jackie Flowers



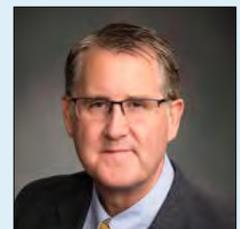
Scott Egbert



Ron Holmes



Brad Janorschke



Steve Taylor

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Lewis County PUD
Northern Lights REA
BPA
Columbia River PUD
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Energy Northwest
Pend Oreille PUD*

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scotth@raiinc.com

Admin Professionals Workshop a Success in Tacoma

Administrative professionals throughout the Northwest gathered in Tacoma, Wash., May 2-3, for our annual Administrative Professionals Workshop. Attendees rolled up their sleeves and dug into a hands-on agenda that included sessions on Microsoft Word styles, a writing lab, a two-part session on Crucial Conversations, and much more. Peggy Vasquez closed the workshop with an engaging keynote presentation on the importance of being administrative professionals and how vital the role is to a utility. The Wednesday evening dinner provided a relaxed and informal venue for attendees to network with each other and meet workshop presenters.

The workshop drew approximately 50 attendees from across the region, many like Ryann Tobosa from Tacoma Public Utilities who were attending for the first time. “I heard great things about this workshop,” said Tobosa. “The agenda was filled with interesting and applicable topics that I really enjoyed.”

Another first-time attendee, Jennifer Lindsay from Wasco Electric Cooperative, said, “NWPPA has made, and continues to make, big strides in keeping training and workshops new and innovative.”

NWPPA would not be able to keep our training new and innovative without the tremendous work by our planning committees. This committee met in 2017-2018 to review the

evaluations and build an agenda that is consistent and yet different from previous workshops.

“I appreciate that course content is based on the feedback and requests of attendees,” said Charleen Jacobs from Tacoma Public Utilities. “NWPPA has created an event that fosters continued growth in our swiftly evolving profession and helps us to work smarter, not harder.”

Committee members for the 2019 workshop are Tobosa; Jacobs; Nancy Dillard, Tillamook PUD; Daniele Pardini, Energy Northwest; Stacey Bresee, Columbia Basin Hydropower; Jennifer Lindsay, Wasco Electric Cooperative; and Jana Nelson, Tacoma Public Utilities.

“I’ve had the pleasure of attending and being on the planning committee for the NWPPA Administrative Professionals workshops for approximately 12 years,” said Jacobs. “What I value most from these workshops is the blend of courses to hone both hard and soft skills necessary for the success of administrative professionals.”

Next year’s workshop will be held in Oregon; dates, topics, and the venue will be decided at the November planning committee meeting. If you have topics you would like to see on the agenda, please contact Jenny Keesey at jenny@nwppa.org. **NWPPA**

25TH

EXCELLENCE IN

COMMUNICATION

AWARDS

HELP US BREAK THE COMMUNICATIONS RECORD

Calling all member utility communicators! Will you please help us celebrate our silver anniversary by submitting a record number of Excellence in Communication entries this year? We need 207 entries to surpass last year’s record-breaking number. With more than 150 member utilities, we can easily do this! If you haven’t submitted any entries yet, never fear—you still have a few weeks left to do so. All submissions must be postmarked by the end of this month, on Friday, June 29, to be eligible for the contest. Please remember that the 2018 competition honors communication pieces created and distributed last year in 2017; communication materials from 2018 will be disqualified.

The winning Excellence in Communication entries will be honored at the awards banquet at the Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) on Tuesday evening, September 18, at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in Idaho. In addition, one utility will come away with the prestigious Tom Hougan Award for Overall Excellence in Communication. Tuesday evening’s banquet is also where the winners of the People’s Choice Award for Photography, which all attendees get to vote for, will be announced.

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



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A Look Back at Public Power

50 YEARS AGO – 1968

Hernando Gonzalez, chief of distribution for Costa Rica's national electric agency, was a visitor for a week at Clark County PUD and at the offices of Bonneville Power Administration where he made a study of management methods (Wash.) ... Seattle City Light, promoting electric space heating, gave a \$75 wiring allowance to any customer converting from flame-type heating (Wash.) ... Naknek Electric Association, Inc. joined NWPPA as its 126th member (Alaska) ... Robert Johanson, president of the board of commissioners of Benton PUD, announced that \$225,000 worth of general obligation bonds have been retired (Wash.).

25 YEARS AGO – 1993

Chugach Electric Association members elected Bill Ryan, Pat Kennedy, and Lace Stanaland as three of their new directors for three years (Alaska) ... Voters gave a strong "Yes" for the Eugene Water & Electric Board to spend \$150 million on new energy sources (Ore.) ... Golden Valley

Electric Association's annual report to the membership highlighted an excellent year for the 27,000 consumers served by the co-op in the Fairbanks, Alaska, area ... Warren McConkey, manager of Flathead Electric Cooperative, was elected chairman of NWPPA's Legislative & Resolutions Committee (Mont.).

5 YEARS AGO – 2013

Columbia River PUD employees donated \$855 to Columbia Pacific Food Bank during the PUD's annual one-day food drive (Ore.) ... Larry Willey, a former senior energy consultant and vice president of a large wind energy technology company, took the reins of Energy/Business Services at Energy Northwest (Wash.) ... Northern Lights, Inc. Board President Donald Bernard Vickaryous passed away at the age of 74 due to complications relating to heart failure after collapsing two days prior (Idaho) ... Longtime Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board Member Ralph Ward announced his retirement for personal reasons. **NWPPA**

JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER 2018

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

905.1—ASSESSING GOVERNANCE: TAKING A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT APPROACH TO GOVERNING YOUR CO-OP

Who Should Attend: Directors, policy makers, and general managers. This event is a pre-conference class for the ORECA summer meeting.

July 10, 2018—Hood River, Ore.

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: UNDERSTANDING AND MITIGATING UPLIFT

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

July 10, 2018—Online

NEW! CASE STUDIES OF ETHICS IN DESIGN AND OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: New engineers, experienced engineers, and professional engineers, as well as managers.

July 18, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

NEW! BEST PRACTICES IN RELIABILITY

Who Should Attend: Engineers, reliability engineers, and managers who have the responsibility to maintain or improve system reliability.

July 19, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

OREGON UTILITIES RECORDS MANAGEMENT GROUP

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

August 1, 2018—Salem, Ore.

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: UNDERSTANDING CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

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

August 14, 2018—Online

NRECA CCD 2640—FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

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

August 21-22, 2018—Eugene, Ore.

SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURES (SPCC)

Who Should Attend: All employees with environmental responsibilities, including supervisors and managers that oversee environmental programs. This includes employees that design or implement oil spill prevention plans and those involved in process, plant, construction, or stormwater discharges.

September 10, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING

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

September 11, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES: DESIGN AND FRAMING OF RISER POLES

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

September 11, 2018—Online

SUPPLY CHAIN WORKSHOP

Who Should Attend: Those who work in or support the utility's supply chain functions, such as purchasing, inventory, materials management, warehousing, and operations personnel.

September 11-12, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

HAZWOPER 8-HOUR FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS AND REFRESHER TRAINING FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: First responders who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and need to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper people; also individuals who respond to releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release.

September 12, 2018—Anchorage, Alaska

ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

September 12-13, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: UNDERSTANDING TEMPERAMENT AS AN EFFECTIVE SITUATIONAL LEADER

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

September 12-13, 2018—Hermiston, Ore.

REGISTER NOW!

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16–19, 2018
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

COMMUNITY THE HEART OF PUBLIC POWER

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE (NIC)

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

September 16-19, 2018—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GROUNDING

Who Should Attend: All electrical workers involved in personal protective grounding.

September 18, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

RAISING YOUR ENERGY IQ 101

Who Should Attend: All utility employees can benefit from this course, especially those who interact with customers or have the need to explain residential home energy consumption.

September 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. Engineers, technicians, meter readers, and other operations personnel are required by OSHA 1910.269 to have this training.

September 19, 2018—Spokane, Wash.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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

September 19-20, 2018—Boise, Idaho

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE FUNDAMENTALS FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: Administrative professionals and anyone who wants to understand how each role in the utility impacts the budget and financial statement.

September 20-21, 2018—Boise, Idaho

OREGON ENGINEERING ROUNDTABLE

Who Should Attend: Engineering managers and staff from public utility districts, cooperative utilities, and other public power utilities within Oregon. (Only utility employees may attend this event.)

September 20-21, 2018—Newport, Ore.

HARDENING WINDOWS NETWORKS

Who Should Attend: Network, server, desktop, and security administrators and management-level individuals interested in this topic.

September 25-28, 2018—Vancouver, Wash.

MONTANA ENGINEERING ROUNDTABLE

Who Should Attend: Engineering managers and staff from public power utilities within Montana. (Only utility employees may attend this event.)

September 27-28, 2018—Missoula, Mont. NWPPA

How the **E-ISAC** Continues to Watch Over Grid Security

By Bill Lawrence

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation takes the security of the grid seriously and remains vigilant against dynamic threats and vulnerabilities. One way we do this is through the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC). The E-ISAC serves as the primary security communications channel for the electric industry; it enhances industry readiness and ability to respond to cyber and physical threats, vulnerabilities, and incidents—each of which has the potential to impact the electric power system at any level.

The E-ISAC's secure portal, which was redesigned in 2017, allows for the exchange of information with E-ISAC members toward accomplishing its mission to reduce cyber and physical security risk to the electricity industry across North America by providing unique insight, leadership, and collaboration.

The E-ISAC, which was created in 1999 at the request of the Department of Energy, conducts trend analysis of all information shared to build the security big picture and identify possible threats to the entire industry. The E-ISAC operates in collaboration with the DOE and the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, which is made up of industry chief executive officers, with government partners including the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The E-ISAC has a comprehensive set of activities designed to strengthen North America's grid security posture. A few of note include the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program; the annual grid security conference, GridSecCon; and the grid security exercise, GridEx, held every two years.

CRISP is a voluntary program that facilitates the exchange of detailed cybersecurity information between the industry, the E-ISAC, DOE, and its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The program enables owners and operators to better protect their business networks from sophisticated cyberthreats. Utilities serving more than 75 percent of U.S. electricity consumers have installed Information Sharing Devices and participate in CRISP. Anonymized information and data from CRISP benefits all E-ISAC members and is shared via the E-ISAC portal.

NERC's annual GridSecCon brings together cyber and physical security experts from industry and government to share emerging security trends, policy advancements, and lessons learned related to the electricity industry. The next conference is scheduled for October 16-19, 2018.

GridEx, which began in 2011, involves a severe, simulated, cyber and physical attack scenario that allows utilities, government partners, and other critical infrastructure participants to engage with local and regional first responders; exercise cross-sector impacts; improve unity of messages and communication; identify lessons learned; and engage senior leadership.

The attack scenario is designed to overwhelm even the most prepared organizations, and allows learning from “real world” attacks and impacts on critical infrastructure, such as those seen in Ukraine in 2015 and 2016. NERC uses input from participants to develop observations and propose recommendations to help industry enhance the security, reliability, and resilience of North America's bulk power system. One of the best indicators of the success of GridEx is the steady increase in engagement by industry stakeholders and government officials.

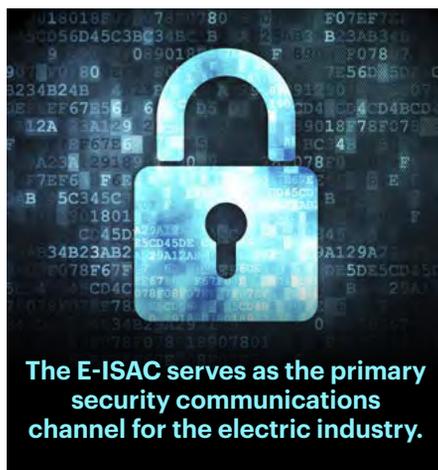
However, member engagement is key to gathering and sharing information which is valuable and actionable with industry members. Voluntary information sharing allows the E-ISAC to identify emerging threats and to provide members with early warnings and access to a network of subject matter experts. As member organizations increase information sharing with the E-ISAC, the E-ISAC, in turn, is better able to identify trends that will allow members to proactively reduce cyber and physical risk. All information shared with the E-ISAC is protected and never shared with NERC Compliance and Enforcement personnel.

A specific program to drive up trust in the E-ISAC's protection of information shared by members, as well as providing a knowledge exchange between analysts, is the Industry Augmentation Program. This program embeds security experts from electric utilities at the E-ISAC for several days at a time, and participants share information on their own crisis response procedures and incident handling experience. They also see how the E-ISAC functions to take in and analyze information, the tools available, and care taken by the staff to safeguard shared information. The E-ISAC's expertise includes:

- Understanding the intent behind attacks and campaign attribution of indicators.
- Reverse-engineering malware and assisting in better understanding an event.
- Identifying additional information within the industry or other critical sectors.

NERC's E-ISAC continues to build and refine its products and services in its quest to be a world-class, trusted source for quality analysis and rapid sharing of electricity industry security information in the manner that is best for grid security in North America. We look forward to hearing from you. To become a member of the E-ISAC or for questions on the programs and services available to members, please send an email to operations@eisac.com. **NWPPA**

Bill Lawrence is the director of the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. He can be reached at bill.lawrence@eisac.com.



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SUCCESSSES IN SUCCESSION PLANNING

By Kristine Lindemulder

In 2017, retirement was on the minds of Emerald PUD's senior management team. They started the year with the knowledge that several long-term, key employees would be lost to retirements by the start of 2020. In fact, they were preparing for the retirements of 15 valued, longtime employees in the next 10 years, and as many as 22 in the next 15 years. And a handful of the retirements were set to happen within the current year.

Succession planning had been an active topic for the utility since 2014, and Emerald was prepared to face the challenge. Over time and after many discussions, the management team developed a succession plan that they hoped would optimize time remaining for soon-to-be retirees while providing a generous learning curve for the successors of these important roles. Staying true to Emerald's culture and belief in internal advancement, the plan was designed to encourage and develop employees' skills and, whenever possible, promote from within.

To get a clear idea of employees' career ambitions, a short survey was conducted in 2015. It asked only four questions aimed at learning the age employees wanted to retire, and if there were other jobs that held their interest. The survey was voluntary but received an excellent response and provided much-needed insight on retirement timelines. It also motivated employees to start developing their skills through classes, seminars, and internal job shadowing in preparation for future opportunities.

By spring 2017, the announcement of firm retirement dates put succession plans into motion. For several years, Emerald's general manager, Scott Coe, had regularly communicated the upcoming staffing challenges to employees. Retirement timeframes were discussed openly, giving employees ample time to consider if other positions could be in their futures. Staff was asked to complete the succession planning survey again if they had any changes since completing it in 2015. Nearly 93 percent of employees participated and shared their career goals, and many stated their growing interest in leadership roles.

Brandon Gee transitioned from a tree trimmer position to an energy services program specialist. Gee is the successor to Tom Hunt, a 30-plus-year employee who will retire this summer. Photo by Roman Studios.



Human Resources Manager Alice Schroeder has one foot out the door and into retirement. Her successor, Alicia Burgess, and Burgess's successor, Customer Service Supervisor Kelli Strange, aren't letting her go yet. Photo by Emerald PUD.



Brandon Gee

In late summer, the next step was taken: job interest forms were made available. Employees who intended to pursue new positions, whether an upward or lateral move, were asked to complete a job interest form. The forms listed positions that were expected to face retirements in the next few years. They also listed positions that would likely become available as the first round of successors accepted new roles. Emerald braced for a domino effect of staffing changes to begin.

In October, the first wave of recruitments began with operations manager, human resources manager, and right-of-way supervisor positions. Before opening these positions to internal applicants, management worked to update the job descriptions with current expectations. Some descriptions hadn't been updated in many years and no longer communicated the true scope of the job or an accurate list of duties. After the descriptions were updated, employees were encouraged to apply. Each opening attracted multiple applicants. In order to allow several months of training before the current operations manager retired, committee interviews began almost immediately for each of the positions and its candidates.

Following the interview process, the operations manager, human resources manager, and right-of-way supervisor positions were awarded. The operations manager position was filled by a line crew foreman and the right-of-way supervisor position was filled by a tree crew foreman. For these two positions, the successors were already well-versed in many aspects of their new jobs and didn't require exorbitant training periods. The human resources manager was awarded to the customer service supervisor, which was an advancement that crossed a broader gap. For Alicia Burgess, the successor of the HR position, the learning curve would need to be longer—and one had already been planned. Existing Human Resources Manager Alice Schroeder had planned to move to a 30-hour work week in 2019 and retire fully in 2020, allowing a generous timeframe

for training a successor starting in December 2017. Burgess began training with Schroeder soon after being awarded the successor position. This gave her a head start on her transition and will likely help to avoid any impact felt by staff when Schroeder moves to a part-time schedule next year. And Burgess is grateful for the extra time to learn the job thoroughly.

"When I tell people about my career change, they're always surprised," said Burgess. "It's unusual to see an organization invest this amount of time into an employee's transition to a new line of work. It's not every day that you can change your career path and stay at the same company!"

Before backfilling the resulting round of vacancies, the focus of recruitments switched to two apprentice lineman openings. This was done because it was expected that several tree crew employees would be interested primarily in becoming linemen, and secondarily in the tree crew foreman position. After the apprentice positions were awarded to tree crew members, recruitment efforts returned to the foremen and supervisor positions. At the same time, Emerald also began recruiting internally for a successor to an energy services program specialist position, a newly created systems analyst position, and subsequently a purchasing agent and two customer service representatives. Due to internal changes that largely affected our crews, two journeyman linemen and four journeyman tree trimmers were also hired externally in order to keep crews fully staffed with seasoned, experienced professionals.

Now that staffing changes have finally slowed, Schroeder looks back on the success of the utility's succession planning.

"I'm happy with our planning and how the changes played out," she said. "Mostly, I appreciate seeing employees explore new career paths and a management team that recognizes talent and is willing to train."

"It's not over," Schroeder added when asked what comes next. "Succession planning and career planning surveys will continue every one or two years going forward. There are still many retirements ahead."

Now in its 35th year of operation, Emerald has grown and changed in many ways, but remains unchanged in the way employees are valued and empowered. Our history of successful long-term and lifetime employees gives testament to our practice of internal advancement and employee development. This and our open style of communication were among the reasons cited in an employee survey that landed Emerald in the top five of Oregon's 100 Best Nonprofits to Work For in 2017. **NWPPA**

Kristine Lindemulder is the communications coordinator for Emerald PUD in Eugene, Ore. She can be contacted at (541) 744-7410.

Bitcoins, Marijuana, and a Utility's Duty to Serve

By Doug Kincaid

In Oregon and Washington, electric utilities are state-regulated monopolies. In exchange for monopoly status, utilities have an obligation to serve all customers. The emergence of bitcoin mining and marijuana farms, however, raise questions as to when a utility can lawfully refuse to provide service to certain customers. Can utilities refuse to provide service to bitcoin miners and marijuana farms? In short, the answer is maybe.

Following a spike in the value of bitcoin, cryptocurrency mining operations flocked to Central Washington in search of cheap power. Bitcoin is a decentralized digital currency that uses a shared public ledger (the block chain) to facilitate and record all transactions between users. Mining is the system by which miners process the block chain in exchange for valuable bitcoins. The hardware required to process bitcoin transactions and associated cooling systems consume vast amounts of electricity, but the reward can be high—in 2017, the price of one bitcoin jumped from less than \$1,000 to over \$17,000 in a matter of months. Due to the volatile nature of cryptocurrency markets, however, miners could be gone as fast as they appeared, exposing utilities to considerable risk. Chelan PUD, who is at the forefront of the bitcoin onslaught, recently issued a moratorium on service applications for cryptocurrency mining.

Bitcoin is not the only controversial industry to emerge in the past couple of years; since the legalization of recreational marijuana, energy-intensive marijuana farms have been popping up across the Northwest. Many growers retrofit warehouses with state-of-the-art lighting and climate control to produce products with higher levels of THC, the plant's psychoactive component. These operations consume large quantities of electricity.

In Oregon, utilities are generally required to "furnish adequate and safe service, equipment and facilities." Consistent with this directive, the Oregon Public Utilities Commission enacted regulations for the refusal of utility service. A utility may refuse service "if, in the best judgment of the utility," the "desired service is likely to unfavorably

affect service to other customers" or "the utility lacks adequate facilities to render the service applied for." The OPUC has held that regulations allowing a utility to refuse service where it "lacks adequate facilities to render the service" are subject to broader statutory duties requiring utilities to provide service to customers. Therefore, a utility may not deny service based on "economic considerations" alone.

In Washington, RCW 80.28.110 provides that every electric utility shall "furnish" electricity "to all persons and corporations who may apply therefor and be reasonably entitled thereto." Regulations provide that an electric utility may refuse to provide service "upon approval of the commission. The commission may grant the request upon determining that the utility has no obligation to provide the requested service under RCW 80.28.110." Washington courts have held that refusal to serve issues should be brought before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission on a case-by-case basis and economic feasibility is "an important factor to consider."

What does this mean for bitcoin mining? In Oregon and Washington, refusal of service is analyzed on a case-by-case, fact-specific basis. Economic feasibility is one factor to be considered, but it is not dispositive of the right to deny service. It is unclear whether state law requires an individualized finding or whether a utility may issue a blanket denial to certain industries, such as bitcoin miners. In the short term, utilities may refuse to serve bitcoin miners if such service is likely to affect other customers. Chelan PUD, for example, anticipates that cryptocurrency mining threatens the grid's capacity to meet planned growth. In the long term, however, the argument that serving bitcoin mining operations is not economically feasible and affects customers becomes less persuasive given a utility's broad responsibility to provide a public service. Going forward, utilities will likely have to find creative solutions to deal with cryptocurrency loads.

Marijuana farming adds an additional layer of complexity to this analysis: the legality of the industry. While Oregon

and Washington laws permit growth and possession of marijuana, federal law, through the Controlled Substance Act, makes marijuana illegal to possess, distribute, or grow. Under a long-standing common law principle, utilities have no duty to serve unlawful uses. For example, a telephone company may refuse to provide service to a brothel or illegal betting business. Under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, state laws that conflict with federal law are "without effect." Neither Oregon nor Washington law preclude application of this common law doctrine. On the other hand, however, state law expressly permits marijuana farms. Thus, it is unclear whether Oregon courts would uphold denial of service to marijuana farms based on illegality.

A recently filed suit by Josephine County against the State of Oregon may decide this issue in the near future. The State Land Use Board struck down a county ordinance outlawing commercial growing operations in certain zones, and the county appealed the decision in federal district court. The county seeks a declaration from the court that marijuana farms are unlawful under federal law and federal law preempts any Oregon law stating otherwise. A ruling in favor of the county would significantly strengthen any argument that a utility is not required to serve marijuana farms.

Although public utilities have a general directive to provide electric service to all customers on a nondiscriminatory basis, this requirement is not absolute. Any utility seeking to deny service should look carefully at the economic feasibility of providing service and the potential effect such service might have on customers. Imposing a moratorium to study the grid effects of a growing industry and develop accurate tariffs is in keeping with Oregon and Washington law. In light of the general duty to serve all customers, however, it is unlikely that a basis exists to deny service over a longer period of time, unless, of course, the proposed use is illegal. **NWPPA**

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Mason 1 Takes Home Three AWWA Awards

At the American Water Works Association's Pacific Northwest Section Conference, Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.) was honored with three of the Association's Excellence in Communications awards. The honor was bestowed in the categories of digital, print, and strategic communications for the District's social media platform, *The Connector* newsletter, and strategic work plan.

At the conference, PUD 1 Director of Business Services **Kristin Masteller** gave a presentation on the District's communications efforts. Masteller thanked her coworkers for all of their assistance in developing materials and messaging for customers.

"Our employees are our best communication assets," she said. "Our linemen take photos of outages and field work. Our customer service representatives relay talking points over the phone and face to face with the public. We all pitch in. I especially want to thank **Brandy Milroy** for her assistance in developing our water communications for which we are being honored this afternoon." **NWPPA**



(L-R) Kristin Masteller and Brandy Milroy

Friederichs Retires from Ferry County

Ferry County Public Utility District #1 (Republic, Wash.) announced the retirement of Manager **John Friederichs** after 30 years with the utility. Friederichs joined the District in 1988 as a mechanic, and then served as conservation director prior to being named manager in 2008.

In 2012, Friederichs led the effort to rebuild after a severe storm with straight-line winds of up to 100 mph took down the entire 900+ mile electrical transmission and distribution system of the utility. Hundreds of poles were destroyed or damaged, and 100 miles of overhead conductor wire were on the ground. Hundreds of trees were blown on lines and the storm caused over \$2 million in damage to electrical equipment.

Friederichs' retirement plans include working on his property and tinkering with his motorcycles.

Steve VanSlyke has been named interim manager as of May 1, 2018. **NWPPA**



Cauchy Retires after 26 Years

End Oreille County Public Utility District (Newport, Wash.) Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs **Mark Cauchy**, who had been with the PUD since 1992, recently retired.

The Regulatory Affairs team manages more than simply relicensing the Box Canyon Dam. Other activities include managing state and federal requirements like the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the team manages nine community water systems, PUD-owned timberlands, dam safety requirements, and an avian protection program.

The team takes great pride in its involvement in the Bonneville Power Administration Energy Conservation Program. The team has completed over a dozen successful commercial energy projects through the county, completed over 39 heat pump projects for customers, and donated over 1,000 energy efficiency kits to customers.

Filling Cauchy's role as director of regulatory affairs will be **Tyler Whitney** who comes to the PUD with experience in policy and government relations. He previously worked for Spokane Mayor **David Condon** as his policy advisor. Whitney's father comes from a utility background, where he has been with Richland Energy Services for 20 years. Whitney, who is an attorney, will also serve as general counsel. **NWPPA**

Clark Approves \$10M Bill Credit

In the regular meeting on May 15, Clark Public Utilities (Vancouver, Wash.) commissioners approved allocation of \$10 million in 2017 surplus funds to customers in the form of a bill credit.

Eligible Clark Public Utilities customers will see a credit on the bill with a June meter reading date, equal to about 29 percent of the average between January and February usage in 2018. EqualPay and Guarantee of Service Program customers will see the credit applied to the account balance.

As a customer-owned utility, Clark Public Utilities is non-profit and operates in the customers' best interests to ensure reliability, increase affordability, and maintain excellent customer service. Staff manages a variety of variables impacting operating costs including the amount of hydropower generated by the federal hydro system, prices for energy purchased from the power market, the cost of natural gas, and fluctuations in weather.

The annual budget is based on conservative estimates of all operational variables to keep rates stable and predictable. Rates haven't changed since 2011. **NWPPA**

Chelan PUD Board Keeps Moratorium

On May 14, Chelan County PUD commissioners listened to comments from customer-owners and cryptocurrency miners at a public hearing. Staff reviewed steps taken since the board imposed the March 19 application moratorium for cryptocurrency mining and similar data operations. After hearing staff and public comments, commissioners voted to extend the moratorium until August 6 and hold another public hearing that day.

Commissioners heard comments from more than two dozen people. Speakers ranged from customers worried about impacts on rates and power supplies to miners asking for service for an industry they say offers jobs and future technology. About 100 people attended the hearing.

General Manager **Steve Wright** said the District has learned that the definition for high-density loads put in place last year is not adequate to address the impacts of the rush of applications to power cryptocurrency mining. “A lot has changed since we put HDL in place,” Wright said. “Keep in mind our mission specifies, ‘enhance the quality of life in Chelan County.’ That means the best value for the most people for the longest period of time.”

Staff proposed creating a specific cryptocurrency rate to make sure risks related to miners’ mobility, bitcoin price swings, and the industry’s mismatch with the PUD’s long-term business model are addressed. Discussions with commissioners on defining such a rate class will continue this month. **NWPPA**



More than two dozen people spoke at the hearing on Chelan PUD’s application moratorium for service to cryptocurrency operations.



Peters Chosen to Lead Columbia REA

Columbia Rural Electric Association (Walla Walla, Wash.) announced on May 30 that after conducting a nationwide search, **Scott Peters** has been hired as the new CEO of the cooperative, effective July 10. He will become the eighth CEO in the 80-year history of the cooperative.

“After looking at all of the candidates for the CEO position, the board feels that Scott is best suited to lead our cooperative into the future,” said Columbia REA Board Chair **Katie Wooldridge**. “We have total confidence in his ability to lead the employees and continue the strong tradition of focusing on the needs of our members.”

Peters has over 25 years of public power experience. He has worked at Columbia REA for the past 10 years, first as the manager of marketing and member services and most recently as COO. Prior to that he worked at Golden Valley Electric Association in Fairbanks, Alaska.

“I am honored to be selected by our board to lead the cooperative I have been a part of for the past decade. I love our community and the great team I get to work with on a daily basis, and I am looking forward to the new challenges as the CEO of Columbia REA,” said Peters.

Les Teel, the current CEO, will retire on July 9. **NWPPA**



Utilities Award Scholarships

Emerald People’s Utility District (Eugene, Ore.) awarded a total of \$15,000 to five college students with roots in Emerald PUD’s service territory. Each will receive \$3,000 toward their educational expenses.

“These winners are examples of the high level of talent and community involvement coming from the young adults in our district,” said **Scott Coe**, Emerald PUD general manager.

This year Emerald PUD raised the amount recipients could receive from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

At Salem Electric’s Annual Meeting on May 8, Board President **Joe Van Meter** recognized the cooperative’s ten \$1,500 scholarship recipients, congratulated them on their accomplishments, and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

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

The Kootenai Electric (Hayden, Idaho) Trust Board awarded \$2,000 scholarships to 10 KEC members and/or their children. The scholarships were made possible this year with the proceeds from the 2017 KEC Golf Classic. The Kootenai Electric Trust Board has awarded more than 130 scholarships since 2007 and plans to offer the scholarship program again next year. **NWPPA**

Umatilla Presents \$500K Check to Lamb Weston

Lamb Weston received a \$500,000 check from Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Hermiston, Ore.) on May 3 for completing one of the Northwest's largest industrial energy-savings projects in the past decade.

The incentive check was given for the potato processor's Boardman West Refrigeration Project, which will save the company an estimated 12,975,327 kilowatt-hours annually. Implemented in two phases over a 16-month period, the project replaced compressors, condensers, and other refrigeration equipment.

The Lamb Weston project at Boardman represents the largest energy savings for any Energy Smart Industrial refrigeration project to date, and the third largest energy savings for all ESI project categories.

Since 2010, Lamb Weston has completed multiple energy-efficiency projects with UEC, for a total of 34,734,000 kilowatt-hours saved. That's enough to offset the consumption of 3,100 single-family homes. **NWPPA**



(L-R) Lamb Weston Engineering Manager Brian Jackson and Umatilla Electric Board Member Lee Docken helped mark the completion of one of the Northwest's largest energy-savings projects.

Grant Fiber-Optic Network Moves Ahead

Approximately 1,400 Grant County residents and businesses are a step closer to receiving fiber-optic internet service this year. Grant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.) staff announced fiber build-out locations in portions of the Moses Lake and George areas to commissioners on April 25 during their normal business meeting.

Commissioners have committed to extending fiber-optic connectivity to all residents of Grant County. The timing of ongoing expansion will be based on the overall financial strength of the utility going forward.

According to the Federal Communications Commission's 2016 Broadband Progress Report, over 23 million rural individuals lack access to a broadband internet connection. As state and federal legislators wrestle with how best to bridge the digital divide that exists in rural America, Grant PUD is closing the rural gap by expanding world-class fiber-optic connectivity to all residents and businesses of Grant County. **NWPPA**

Plumas-Sierra Announces Retirements, New Hires

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (Portola, Calif.) has had several staffing changes recently. Their longest tenured employee, Linda O'Neill, retired after 41 years as a work order clerk. She was with the co-op through many changes and will be greatly missed around the office. PSREC wishes O'Neill much happiness in her retirement.

Other retirements include Susan Sessions, work order clerk, 25 years; Guy Varner, journeyman lineman, 25 years; and Donna Mills, marketing manager/energy auditor, 24 years. Judy Alexander, customer service representative, will retire this month after 18 years of service.

With all of these retirements, PSREC has brought on some new employees. Jon Pilatti is the newest journeyman lineman; Emily Compton is the new community relations manager; and Kristen Attama and Amy Waller are the newest customer service representatives. **NWPPA**

Cowlitz PUD Wins for Workforce Best Practices

Cowlitz County PUD (Longview, Wash.) Board President Dena Diamond-Ott accepted the first-place award for Workforce Best Practices at the Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce's Annual Pillars of Strength Award Ceremony.

Cowlitz PUD has made a commitment to local schools to be a hands-on resource for career readiness for students who are interested in engineering, technology, and the utility trades. During Public Power Week of 2017, Cowlitz PUD hosted a half-day career fair for 40 local high school students. The students were provided a tour of the utility's operations center and broken into groups depending on their career interest, finishing the day with a lunch-and-learn where many of the managers and supervisors joined the students for questions and answers.

Included in the efforts to prepare students for their careers, Cowlitz PUD also offers four paid summer internships for college students interested in technology, engineering, and GIS. These internships have resulted in the hiring of five full-time employees in the past two years. **NWPPA**



(L-R) General Manager Steve Kern, Manager of Employee Services Marisa Keeney, Commissioner Dena Diamond-Ott, Public Relations Manager Alice Dietz, Commissioner Dave Quinn, and Commissioner Kurt Anagnostou.

Members Announce Board Elections

Bent O. Mikkelsen officially joined the Emerald PUD (Ore.) Board to serve Subdistrict 2 after being sworn in at the March 13 Board meeting. Mikkelsen was appointed by the board to serve the remainder of Lee Kelley's term after Kelley resigned in February.

OPALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) members boarded the ferry on April 21 to participate in the 2018 Annual Meeting. In an uncontested race, Rick Christmas and Jeff Struthers were elected to serve on the co-op board. General Manager Foster Hildreth shared his gratitude and appreciation for Winnie Adams and Randy Cornelius, whose board service ended with this election.

Crystal Musselman was elected to the Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Hayden, Idaho) Board of Directors at the 80th Annual Meeting on April 30. Musselman represents a district at-large position and has more than 30 years of experience in the energy industry.

At Salem Electric's Annual Membership Meeting held on May 8, Jeff Anderson and Joe Van Meter were re-elected to three-year terms. At the director's Organizational Meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for 2018-2019: Anderson, president; Dave Bauer, vice president; and Van Meter, secretary treasurer. Other members of the board include: Jerry Berger, Alicia Bonesteele, Cindy Condon, and Paul Ennor.

Midstate Electric Cooperative's 66th annual meeting of the members, held on May 12 at the La Pine (Ore.) Middle School, was well attended with over 900 in attendance. Vic Russell, Robert Reed, and Diana Cox all ran unopposed and were re-elected for another three-year term. Officers for 2018-2019 are Lee Smith, president; Alan Parks, vice president; and Cox, secretary/treasurer. The board also includes Directors Gordon DeArmond, Ron Sommerfeldt, Ken Wilson, and Bud Kendall.

Energy Northwest's 27-member board of directors elected five inside directors and one outside director to each serve four-year terms on the public power agency's 11-member executive board. Among its members, the board of directors elected the following utility commissioners to serve as inside directors: Terry Brewer, Grant County Public Utility District 2; Arie Callaghan, Grays Harbor County PUD 1; Linda Gott, Mason County PUD 3; Jack Janda, Mason County PUD 1; and Will Purser, Clallam County PUD. Selected from outside its membership, the board of directors re-elected William "Skip" Orser, a former chief operating officer with the Tennessee Valley Authority and a 30-year nuclear industry veteran, to serve as one of three outside directors. **NWPPA**

Clallam Unveils New Office Display

Clallam PUD (Carlsborg, Wash.) would like to thank Brent Maggard, substation and equipment specialist, for fabricating a 120/240-volt pole-mounted transformer display that will help them show their customers what they're seeing at the tops of certain poles across the county. The importance of this display is not only for customers to get an up-close and personal look at a transformer, but also to show what happens in the case where a customer witnesses a flash or hears a loud explosive sound preceding an outage.

Maggard also included wildlife protective equipment as an example of what our crews put out there to help mitigate wildlife contact resulting in the unfortunate demise of critters such as birds and squirrels. Clallam PUD will be taking this display on tour at future events such as the county fair and 2018 home shows. The display is currently set up in the PUD's main office lobby. **NWPPA**



HREC Hires Libby Calnon for GM Position

The Hood River Electric Cooperative (Ore.) Board of Directors has selected Libby Calnon to serve as the co-op's next general manager. Calnon will replace John Gerstenberger, who is retiring next month after 32 years of service to members.

Calnon has 20 years of experience in public power and serves as the community and public relations supervisor at Columbia River PUD in Deer Island, Ore. In that role, she represents the PUD within the community, advocates for customers on regional industry issues, and collaborates with others for projects related to economic development, strategic planning, outage management, emergency response, and efforts to improve services for customers. She is the third generation in her family to work in the electric utility industry.

"I'm blessed to have this opportunity," Calnon said. "HREC is a well-run cooperative and it will be my goal to continue to build upon their long tradition of providing excellent service and affordable rates to members."

Calnon earned a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University and a Bachelor of Science in technical journalism from Oregon State University. She is currently working toward her Cooperative Finance Professional Certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. **NWPPA**



Steve Taylor Named Okanogan PUD GM

On April 30, PUD No. 1 of Okanogan County Board of Commissioners selected the finalist for the open general manager position and the board authorized Board President **Jerry Asmussen** to begin negotiations with **Steven N. Taylor**.

Taylor has more than 26 years of experience in electrical utilities, including serving as the current general manager of Mason PUD 1 (Shelton, Wash.), the position he has held for more than 10 years. Prior to that, Taylor worked as a project manager in Gillette, Wyo., and a field engineer in Wyoming and Washington state. He is the current past president of the NWPPA Board of Trustees.

Taylor earned a Master of Public Administration from City University of Bellevue along with his Bachelor of Science in electrical and electronics engineering from Central Washington University. **NWPPA**

Benton PUD Celebrates New Charging Station

On May 16, Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.) and EVITA (Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Transportation Alliance) members celebrated the opening of the Southridge Sports and Event Complex electric vehicle charging station. This is the first of nine electric vehicle charging stations being installed as part of a pilot project led by EVITA and its partners, Greenlots and EV4.

EVITA is an industry collaboration comprised of Energy Northwest, Benton PUD, Franklin PUD, Benton REA, City of Richland Energy Services, City of Ellensburg Energy Services, and TRIDEC. All stations will be operated by Greenlots during the pilot project.

EVITA received a \$405,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Partnerships Program for the installation of electrical vehicle direct current fast-charging stations along eastern Washington highway corridors. The proceeds of the grant will be combined with public and private matching funds and in-kind contributions for the installation of the nine stations. **NWPPA**



(L-R) Energy Northwest CEO Brad Sawatzke, Benton PUD Commissioner Lori Sanders, Kennewick City Council Member Matt Boehnke, Greenlots Vice President Tom Ashley, Senator Sharon Brown, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce CEO Lori Mattson, Washington State Dept. of Transportation Tonia Buell, and Benton PUD Commissioner Jeff Hall.

We remember: Lee Rauch Kelley

Former Emerald PUD board member **Lee Kelley** passed away on March 10 in Eugene, Ore. He was 62 years old.

Kelley, an only child, was born October 26, 1955, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Jack and Jean Kelley. He initially grew up in La Jolla, Calif., and later moved to Julian, Calif. He and his family later moved to Dallas, Ore. He graduated from Dallas High School in 1973. After three years of college at Oregon College of Education in Monmouth, Ore., he and his father moved to Veneta, Ore., to open the Coast to Coast Hardware Store, later to become Kelley's True Value. He ran the hardware store for 40 years, until he sold the store and retired in 2015.

Kelley served as a director on EPUD's board from 2015 to 2018, and as board treasurer on multiple occasions. He was a dedicated public servant, serving constituents in Alvadore, Elmira, Fern Ridge, Noti, and Veneta areas with commitment and skill.

He is survived by his son, Nick (and Kelsey); grandson, Jackson; former wife and friend, Laurie; and hiking buddy, Doug. **NWPPA**



Three Honored at Douglas PUD

Douglas County PUD Commissioners **Ronald E Skagen**, **Molly Simpson**, and **Aaron J. Viebrock** honored three employees with service awards during the April 23 commission meeting held at the District's East Wenatchee, Wash., office.

They awarded Power Resource Coordinator **Sharon Liebert** with her 40-year service award; and Line Foreman **Danny Monson** and Lead Warehouseman **Jeff Hammond** with their 20-year service awards. **NWPPA**



Commissioner Viebrock, Commissioner Skagen, Jeff Hammond, Sharon Liebert, Danny Monson, and Commissioner Simpson.

Black Start Releases VRLA Battery Box

Black Start Mobile DC, LLC, manufacturer of substation battery trailers, is pleased to announce that it has incorporated its new patent-pending VRLA battery box with H2 mitigation into the design of its DC power system trailers.



The battery box provides several functions essential for mobile applications; the first being safety. Each box has hydrogen sensors that connect to a central H2 monitor with alarm and control functions that operate the exhaust fan system at 1-percent hydrogen; the sensors temporarily shut down the chargers at 2-percent hydrogen, keeping any off-gassed hydrogen from reaching the lower explosive limit of 4 percent.

Jake Johnston, owner of Black Start, said, “I am very excited about how the new valve-regulated battery box solves many of the potential risks involved with transporting and maintaining portable battery banks. The clean rugged design fits well in the layout of the trailer, it gives me more flexibility in my design options.”

Black Start Mobile DC, LLC designs and builds substation battery trailers to meet customer requirements with flexibility in the design and trailer configuration. For more information, visit www.blackstartmobiledcllc.com. **NWPPA**

Bartolomei Named NRTC President, Utility Solutions

NRTC’s CEO **Tim Bryan** announced on May 7 that technology executive **Greg Bartolomei** has been named NRTC’s president of Utility Solutions, effective May 14.

“We’re thrilled to have a leader of Greg’s caliber joining the NRTC team,” Bryan said. “NRTC remains focused on helping our members build, operate, and leverage communications networks for both smart grid and broadband applications. Greg will play a critical role in developing, expanding, and enhancing those efforts.”

Bartolomei will lead NRTC’s portfolio of smart grid solutions, which includes metering and metering networks, analytics, demand management, smart energy (including solar), and storage. In addition, he will look for ways to more closely integrate NRTC’s broadband network solutions division (Pulse Broadband) as NRTC continues to work with rural utilities to improve network connectivity through fiber optics and fixed wireless technologies.

NRTC provides solutions that help its 1,500 electric and telephone members bring all of the advantages of today’s evolving technology to rural America. Visit www.nrtc.coop for more information. **NWPPA**

NISC Announces Expanded Ops Platform

National Information Solutions Cooperative has announced the launch of NISC Operations Analytics, an integrated platform for engineers and system operators of electric systems, which harnesses hourly AMI reads and the granularity of time-series data for better decision-making.

“NISC Operations Analytics is a true paradigm shift,” said **Todd Eisenhauer**, NISC vice president of Strategy & Operations Solutions. “It changes the way utilities manage and operate for their distribution network, giving users greater visibility into system performance.”

Leveraging a time-series approach, NISC Operations Analytics allows users to look beyond peak system analysis to better grasp real system performance. Data gleaned from NISC’s Meter Data Management System, GIS, and Members’ Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition allows users to create realistic models and run calculations to make better-informed decisions.

The core engine of NISC Operations Analytics is provided by EDD’s Distributed Engineering Workstation, which can analyze interval AMI data in a detailed electrical model, allowing it to be thoroughly vetted.

National Information Solutions Cooperative is an information technology cooperative that develops, implements, and supports software and hardware solutions for its members/customers. Additional information about NISC can be found at www.NISC.coop. **NWPPA**

Ruralite to Acquire Energy NewsData

On May 4, Ruralite Services, Inc. and Energy NewsData announced that the two companies have entered into a purchase and sale agreement by which RSI will acquire the publishing and other assets of Energy NewsData. The board of directors of RSI and the shareholders of NewsData have approved the transaction.

“We are excited about bringing together arguably the West’s two most respected energy-sector communications companies,” said RSI CEO **Michael Shepard**. “Though Ruralite has been historically focused on helping utilities deliver news and information to consumers and NewsData’s forte has been independent, in-depth coverage of the industry and energy issues, we think both entities will greatly benefit from the acquisition.”

“I am extremely pleased that Cyrus’ legacy will continue with Ruralite,” said **Mary Noe**, Energy NewsData Vice President and Controller. Noe is the widow of **Cyrus Noe**, who founded NewsData in 1982, retired in 2014, and died in 2017.

NewsData, which has 10 employees based in the Seattle area and a four-person staff in San Francisco, will continue its presence in those cities. Ruralite is headquartered in Hillsboro, Ore.

Ruralite Services Inc. has a mission to make communications easy for public power utilities. For more information, visit www.ruraliteservices.org. **NWPPA**

Megger Releases Ground Tester

Megger now offers a high-performance ground tester for measuring ground electrode resistance and soil resistivity. The DET2/3 delivers accurate results in the harshest environments.

Ideal for a wide range of applications, ranging from taking accurate measurements on communications ground systems to performing archaeological and geological investigations, this new ground tester is easy to use. It offers excellent error detection capabilities, as well as a large color display that shows detailed test information in both numerical and graphing formats.

The DET2/3 meets IEEE Standard 81 and is suited to testing grounding and lightning protection. It provides ground measurement over a single continuous range from 0.001 Ω to 20 k Ω with a resolution of 1 m Ω . The unit's test frequencies range from 10 Hz to 200 Hz in steps of 0.5 Hz. An automatic frequency selection feature allows users to ensure tests are carried out at the frequency with the lowest noise level.

Megger is one of the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of test and measurement equipment used within the electric power, building wiring, and telecommunication industries. For more information, visit <http://us.megger.com/blog>. **NWPPA**



OSI Appoints New VP of Utilities

Open Systems International, Inc. announced that **Randy Berry** has joined OSI's executive team as the new vice president of utilities.

Berry is an energy industry professional with more than 30 years of experience in the design, delivery, and support of operations technology solutions throughout the world. His experience includes electricity T&D, electricity markets, oil and gas, and water systems solutions. His strong focus on customer success has helped utility, RTO, and ISO clients meet their ever-increasing operational challenges. He has also participated in federal and state policy, and regulatory activities, as well as having served on industry boards. Berry previously worked for Alstom/GE in various senior technical and business roles for 22 years, and prior to joining OSI was vice president of business development at Power Systems Consultants.

He is a graduate of Michigan Tech University and is actively involved with the computer science program at Michigan Tech University and the Power Engineering Program at Washington State University.

Open Systems International (www.osii.com) provides open, state-of-the-art, and high-performance automation solutions to utilities worldwide. **NWPPA**

Novinium Launches Plenovo Subsidiary

The successful launch of the PreVent[®] Manhole Event Prevention system has led to the creation of Plenovo, a new subsidiary of Novinium. Plenovo applies a holistic approach to helping circuit owners prevent manhole fires and explosions by addressing the root causes of the problem and providing vision into underground structures.

Manhole fires and explosions are becoming more prevalent as urban infrastructures age. An estimated 11 manhole events strike across North America every day. These smoking manholes, manhole fires, and manhole explosions injure people and cause significant network damage and costly outages. A single manhole explosion can cost an electric utility more than \$1,000,000.

Novinium is today's only full-service cable rehabilitation technology company. For more information, visit www.novinium.com. To learn more about the PreVent product, including photography, pricing, and product information, visit www.Plenovo.com. **NWPPA**



Evluma Diversifies OmniMax[™]

LED lighting manufacturer Evluma expanded its OmniMax replacement lamp product line with the launch of the OmniMax Standard. For lighting projects with central switching, or no need for controls, Evluma offers the OmniMax Standard as a streamlined, economical option without Bluetooth or Photocontrol Failsafe[™]. Used to upgrade decorative street and pedestrian lighting to LED, the OmniMax offers a variety of color temperatures and a radial light engine designed to mimic the glow of HID technologies that are otherwise inefficient and maintenance intensive.

The Premium version, released in 2016, can be controlled via Bluetooth using Evluma's custom app, ConnectLED[™], and has Evluma's patented Photocontrol Failsafe[™] built in. As some decorative luminaires do not require dusk-to-dawn photocontrols for operation, Photocontrol Failsafe has been removed from the Standard version.

"The diversity of these lighting projects is immense and the requirements many, but the solution can be simple and cost-sensitive. By extending the OmniMax product line with OmniMax Standard, the transition to LED can be straightforward, beautiful, and cost-effective," said Marketing Director **Cathleen Shattuck**.

Evluma is committed to developing LED lighting solutions that are affordable and long lasting. For more information, visit www.evluma.com. **NWPPA**



DON'T CALL IT A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

By Trevor W. Pearson and Elizabeth K. Whitney



President Harry Truman is credited with coining the phrase “a Do-Nothing Congress” in 1948, but he was neither the first nor the last to rail on legislative inaction. In recent months, Congressional leaders’ decision to abandon a major infrastructure push have led many to conclude Congress isn’t going to do anything before the 2018 election. Statistics from the 115th Congress show it falling well below average, recording just 97 bills enacted into law for the first half of the term, the fourth lowest in 30 years.

However, there is more to the 115th Congress than the numbers are telling us. Several high-profile legislative efforts such as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus have grabbed headlines, but there are several other important legislative advancements—both signed into law and still in the works—with meaningful impact for the energy industry in general and NWPPA members specifically.

Sudden success for vegetation management, fire borrowing

After months of Congressional inaction on appropriations and a series of continuing resolutions, the 115th Congress produced some major wins for NWPPA members in the FY18 omnibus spending bill: provisions to improve vegetation management for utilities on federal rights of way and a fix to the budgetary game of fire borrowing.

Legislative text similar to the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act was folded into the spending bill,

featuring meaningful liability protections and a clear framework to allow utilities to address vegetation management risks within or immediately adjacent to rights of way on federal lands. NWPPA has been a long-time advocate for improving these policies and was instrumental in getting the problem addressed in the omnibus bill.

Also included in the spending package was a fix for the problem of fire borrowing, in which the Forest Service spends funds meant for fire prevention on fire suppression when costs exceed appropriations. Fire borrowing was intended to be an extraordinary measure, but as fire seasons have grown more destructive, it has become common practice. Thanks to updates in the FY18 omnibus, the Forest Service will have access to a special emergency reserve fund if fire suppression costs exceed what was appropriated for the year.

Instead of an infrastructure bill, multiple vehicles present opportunities

With a mid-term election just a few months away and the end of the Congressional term shortly after that, many have given up hope that major legislation will be enacted by the 115th Congress. Without a high-profile legislative effort to compete with, however, the smaller vehicles moving through the process could offer opportunities to carry additional NWPPA priorities over the finish line.

These vehicles include the Farm Bill, which has a small energy title focused on rural energy and broadband; Federal

Aviation Administration reauthorization, which contains beneficial language on beyond line-of-sight use of drones as well as improvements to FEMA’s disaster reimbursement policies; the biannual Water Resources Development Act that mainly authorizes Army Corps projects but often contains hydropower provisions; and of course, the annual appropriations bills.

Hydro is the new low-hanging fruit

A central part of the NWPPA Rally in Washington, D.C., in April was to cast hydro licensing reform as “the new low-hanging fruit” and steer members of Congress to include it in a moving vehicle the same way vegetation management and fire borrowing hitched a ride on the omnibus bill. H.R.3043, the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act sponsored by Cathy McMorris Rogers (R-Wash.), has been a central component of NWPPA’s advocacy for years. The bill designates the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the lead agency for hydropower permitting, includes hydropower in the federal definition of renewable energy, and streamlines hydropower licensing by allowing FERC to set a schedule for federal approvals.

The legislation passed the House by a comfortable (if not broadly bipartisan) margin in November 2017, but its chances as a stand-alone bill in the Senate are smaller. A bipartisan version is included in the comprehensive energy package proposed by Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Maria Cantwell

(D–Wash.), but that bill has struggled to get off the ground and faces an unlikely path forward. During NWPPA’s Rally, association members met with dozens of Congressional offices to share their real-world experiences with the hydro-relicensing process and advocated for the common-sense updates provided in the legislation.

While none of the vehicles mentioned above are a slam-dunk vehicle for hydro relicensing provisions, the most likely candidates are the Water Resources Development Act and the annual appropriations bills.

Summer shenanigans, known unknowns, and a busy lame duck

We can expect each chamber to advance their own version of these bills independently over the course of the summer, but none are likely to be finalized until the lame duck period. That’s a full six months away, and, of course, a lot can happen. The past 18 months have demonstrated how distracted Congress can be by the president’s comments and behavior, as well as the ongoing investigation into Russian influence in the 2016 election. Both of those narratives could certainly come into play in the coming months, shaking leaders’ plans for a low-profile, but productive, year.

Further, the uncertainty of election outcomes brings an additional volatility to how bills and individual policies will shake out. With many anticipating that the House may flip to Democratic control, the lame duck period could become an assembly line pushing one legislative vehicle after another over the finish line—or negotiations could break down as members anticipate a new balance of power.

Either way, NWPPA members should ignore suggestions that the 115th Congress will have a do-nothing year. Even if we cannot predict which, if any, vehicles will become law, NWPPA has a proven model of success by keeping up steady pressure for its top priorities. **NWPPA**

Trevor W. Pearson is principal and Elizabeth K. Whitney is managing principal at Meguire Whitney LLC, NWPPA’s Washington, D.C., consulting firm. They can be reached at trevor@meguirewhitney.com and elizabeth@meguirewhitney.com respectively.

WECC Opens Voting on Key Issues

By Julie Booth

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council believes that one of the key responsibilities of its member representatives is to vote on important matters of governance for the organization. In mid-May, WECC asked its member representatives, or their designated alternate, to vote on the following important balloting items: bylaws revisions, an organizational name change, and re-election of three incumbent directors to the WECC Board of Directors.

Bucket 4 Bylaws

Each member representative received a ballot containing five questions for consideration. The first item was an up or down vote for advancing changes to WECC’s bylaws bucket 4 amendments. The revisions are an effort to clean up and modernize the bylaws, which have not had a substantial update since 2014 when WECC bifurcated from the reliability coordinator role. Bucket 4 makes significant changes that affect rights and obligations that require both board and member approval. An example would be eliminating the need to hold a special meeting each time a decision is needed. WECC bylaws currently require all elections, such as bylaws changes and electing new members, to take place at a formal meeting of the membership which places additional travel burdens on the membership. The amendments also reflect WECC’s 2014 change to a 501(c)4 social welfare organization.

WECC organizational name change

Over the last several years, WECC has been studying a change to the company name to promote brand clarity, eliminate role confusion with registered functions, create a name more descriptive of the organization, and clarify industry nomenclature. The WECC Board of Directors support this change, but prior to formally approving the new name (Reliability West) the board has asked for an advisory vote from the membership to better understand its collective position on the issue.

Board of directors elections

The WECC Nominating Committee acted unanimously to nominate three current directors to serve an additional term on WECC’s board: Richard Campbell, Gary Leidich, and Shelley Longmuir.

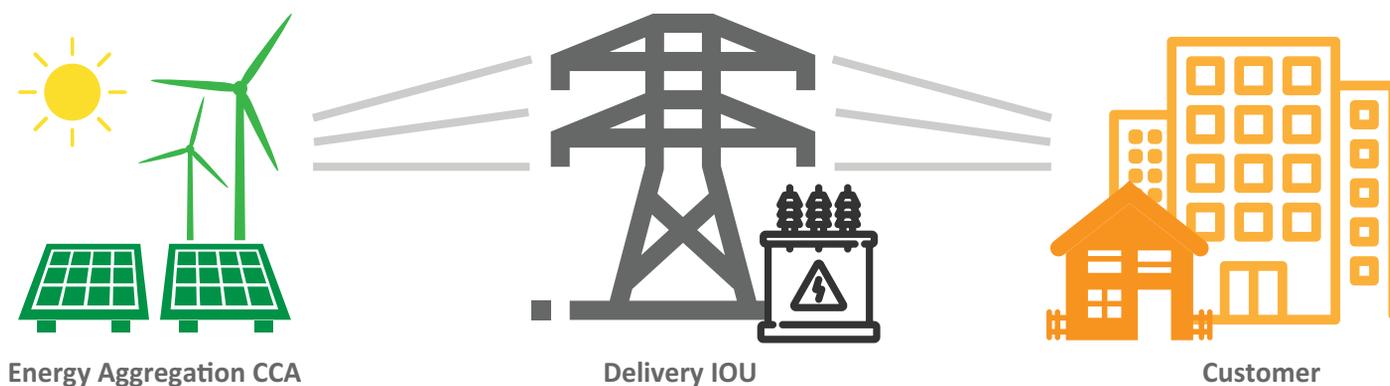
WECC opened voting on May 18 for 30 days. The results will be formalized at a special meeting of the members on June 19 in Salt Lake City, Utah. WECC expects to make a formal announcement about the outcome of the voting shortly after the board of directors meeting. **NWPPA**

Julie Booth is the communications manager for WECC. She can be contacted at (801) 819-7615 or jbooth@wecc.biz.



COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION: A PUBLIC POWER LITE OPTION FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

By Gary Saleba



Customer choice, transparency, clean energy, and local control are increasingly becoming the key words that describe customer/member desires and expectations for basic electric service. Customer choice is currently being pursued via several avenues to include direct access, optional rate schedules, and open competition among power suppliers. But by far, the most popular option available to pursue these customer/member desires and expectations is community choice aggregation (CCA).

The CCA business model is available in a growing number of markets across the U.S. Seven states (Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, and California) have already passed legislation authorizing public entities to form CCA organizations. Additionally, the CCA business model for electric service is being legislatively considered in Nevada, New Mexico, Minnesota, and Virginia.

How does CCA work?

A community choice aggregation organization is a formal entity created under state law. The CCA organization typically consists of cities, counties, and special districts that join together under a joint action or joint powers framework. The CCA organization becomes a key player in providing electric service to existing customers of the local investor-owned utility. Under the CCA business model, the IOU continues to provide transmission, distribution, and customer service functions, while the CCA provides all power supply requirements. The CCA-provided power supply requirements include the aggregation of all wholesale power supply, distributed energy resources, demand-side management, energy efficiency programs, and low-income assistance. Under the CCA business model, the traditional vertically integrated IOU business model is bifurcated into “energy aggregation” and “delivery” functions.

This CCA business model has flourished in the current utility environment as this model offers local control of key energy policy decisions, transparency, lower wholesale power rates, and customer choice for the customers’/members’ energy needs.

California CCAs – A case study

A good example of community choice aggregation can be found in California. CCAs currently serve about 25 percent of California’s power needs and are forecast to provide over 85 percent of the state’s power needs by 2025. Below is a brief history of the CCA business model development in California.

AB 117 (2002) authorized community choice aggregation in California. The first CCA was formed in 2010. There are currently 16 operating CCAs in California with more than 11 others preparing to launch. Forming a CCA in California is fairly simple. An

authorizing ordinance forming the CCA must be passed by the local jurisdiction. A CCA Implementation Plan is then filed with the California Public Utilities Commission. Once the CPUC acknowledges the CCA's Implementation Plan, the CCA negotiates a service agreement with the incumbent IOU. The CCA can then begin providing power supply service to all customers/members within the CCA's service territory unless the customer/member opts out of the CCA and chooses to stay with the incumbent IOU. The opt-out rate for CCAs in California has been less than 5 percent.

CCA enthusiasm in California has caught on rapidly as customers/members become increasingly weary of high rates, poor air quality, lack of local energy-related jobs, and no local control. Cities, counties, and special

districts are using CCAs as a strategy to reduce future energy risks through programs such as local distributed energy resources, electric vehicle programs, renewable energy projects, strong energy efficiency programs, battery storage incentives, and a myriad of programs for low-income and disadvantaged customers/members.

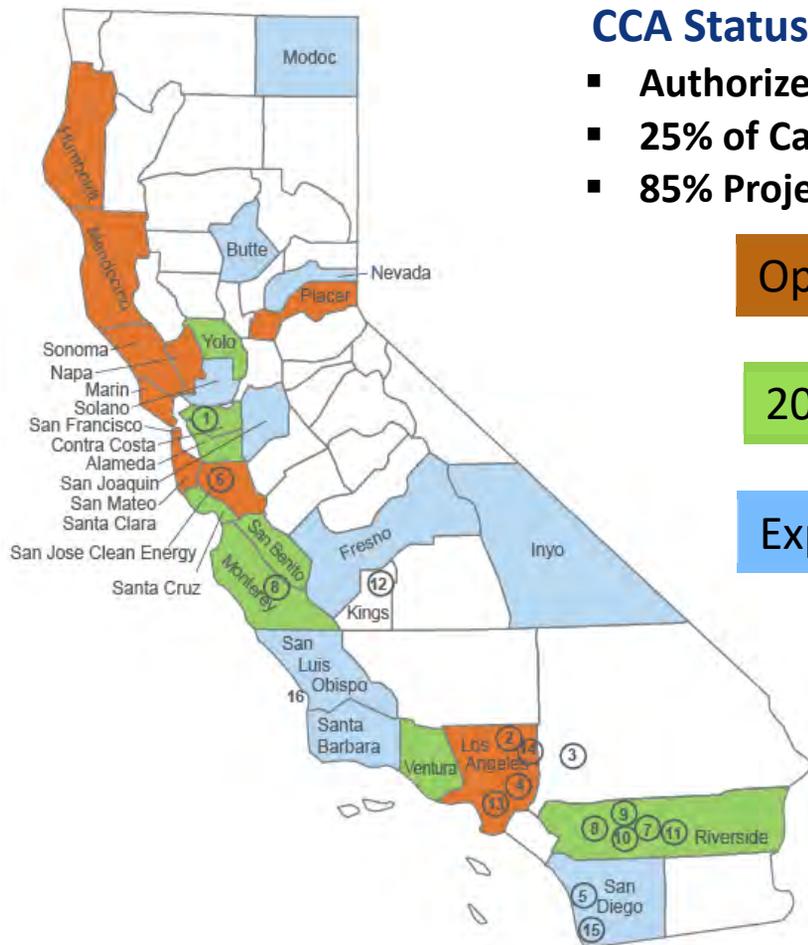
CCA policy direction and priorities vary widely depending on the constituency of the forming CCA. Along the California coast, the population seems to be more concerned about global climate change. Therefore, the coastal CCAs have focused more on green power supply. The inland CCAs tend to focus on lower rates. But there is one common guiding principle for all California CCAs: local control is of key importance and locally specific policy objectives drive energy-related decisions.

What are the issues with CCA?

The CCA-related attributes of customer choice, transparency, and local control are obvious. So what are the drawbacks to CCA? There are two primary concerns associated with CCA development that are typically cited: the hold-harmless principle and fragmentation.

First, CCAs become responsible for meeting all customer/member power supply needs. This operational reality leaves the incumbent IOU with surplus power supply. This surplus occurs because the local IOU routinely purchases power supply under the assumption that all customers will be full requirements customers/members far into the future. Under CCA deployment, this basic assumption no longer holds true, so the resultant surplus IOU power

continued



CCA Status in California

- Authorized via AB 117
- 25% of California Served via CCAs Currently
- 85% Projected by 2025

Operational

2018 Launch

Exploring / In Progress

supply is now stranded. To address this stranding issue, all CCA-enabling legislation has a provision that deals with stranded IOU power supply costs. This provision of the CCA enabling legislation typically provides for a stranded cost-recovery mechanism to “hold harmless” the remaining IOU customers from the financial impacts of customers departing the IOU for CCA power supply service. While this “hold-harmless” higher principle is straightforward, its implementation has proven controversial. The controversy around what amount of stranded costs are the responsibility of departing CCA customers can be illustrated by two examples.

In California, the CCA-enabling statute calls for a hold-harmless provision which has become the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment. The PCIA is charged to departing CCA customers to keep remaining IOU customers “indifferent” to whether or not a CCA customer departs bundled IOU service. The PCIA calculation has been contentious from day one, but has just recently become a much larger issue as more and more California electric customers switch to the CCA business model. There is currently a PCIA proceeding before the CPUC. This proceeding has been ongoing for several months and involves dozens of parties and hundreds of thousands of pages of legal briefs, expert testimony, and procedural orders. Out-of-pocket expenses for this PCIA proceeding are estimated at more than \$10 million. The positions in the PCIA proceeding range from the IOUs saying PCIA charges for CCA departing load should be 4.0¢/kWh to the CCAs saying they are being overcharged at a PCIA of 1-2¢/kWh.

The outcome of this PCIA proceeding should be finalized this summer and will likely result in some short-term charges in the PCIA calculation and a deferral to a later CPUC hearing for long-term, more complicated issues.

In Washington state, Microsoft, Inc. desired to terminate power supply services from Puget Sound Energy, Inc. and source its own power supply from cleaner energy sources. PSE responded favorable to the request but said Microsoft, Inc. must pay an “exit fee” in sufficient amount to “hold-harmless” financially the remaining PSE bundled customers. The quantification of an adequate “exit fee” for Microsoft, Inc. again took several months. The estimates of a “hold-harmless” exit fee for Microsoft, Inc. ranged from PSE owning Microsoft, Inc. for leaving fully bundled service to Microsoft, Inc. owing PSE significant exit fees. This Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission case was successfully settled.

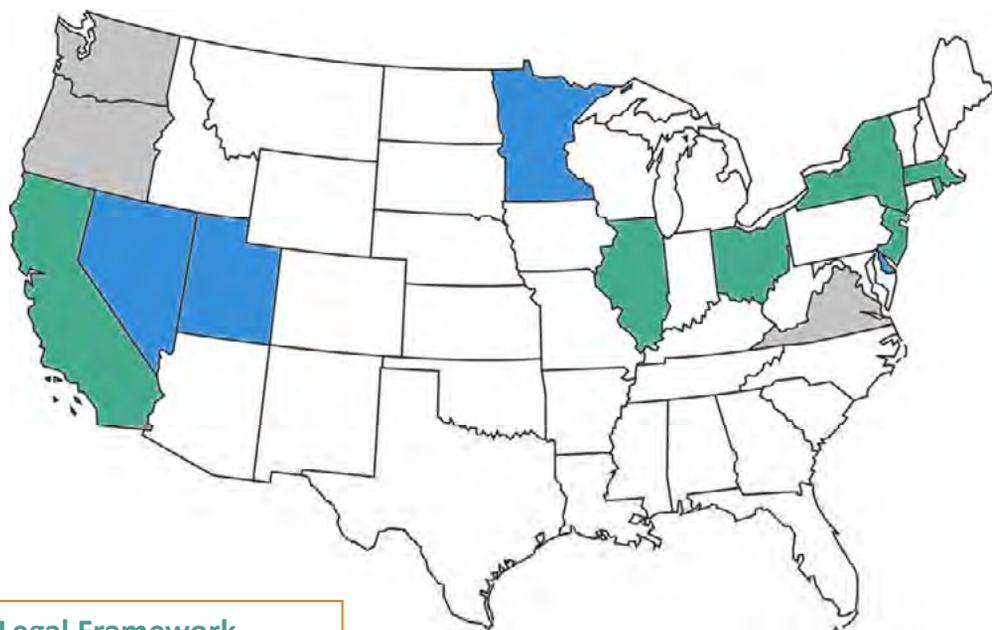
Bottom line from these two examples: the guiding principle of “hold harmless” keeping bundled customers harmless from departing CCA loads is universally accepted, but the

quantification of the amount (if any) of stranded assets has been hotly contested in every venue.

Secondly, the other commonly expressed concern about CCA formation is the fragmentation of power supply planning and procurement. Using California as an example, five years ago three IOUs planned and procured power for over 75 percent of the state; now with the proliferation of CCAs in California, this planning and procurement function is stretched over a much larger population of utilities. Concern has been expressed that the decentralization of power supply planning and procurement could compromise the reliability of the power grid. But this stated concern has yet to materialize.

Could the CCA business model be implemented in the Pacific Northwest?

Lack of customer choice, transparency, clean energy, and local control have largely driven the CCA business model. These same concerns may exist in the Pacific Northwest. For example, most key energy policy decisions are being made in Salem, Olympia, Boise, and



CCA Legal Framework
CCA Under Consideration
 CCA Interest??

Helena rather than at the local level. The generation-related greenhouse gas emissions associated with some of the Pacific Northwest IOUs do not match the policy goals set by some of the major Pacific Northwest cities. Utility rate setting is still undertaken in a rather opaque fashion and retail customer choices for power supply options are limited or not available at all. These concerns, coupled with the pending termination of the BPA power supply contracts, might indicate that looking at the CCA model in the Pacific Northwest is timely.

Regarding the BPA power sales contract situation, all Pacific Northwest preference customers are facing the end of the current BPA contracts within the next 10 years. Numerous forecasts, including BPA's own forecasts, indicate that BPA may not be the long-term least expensive supplier of bulk wholesale power. Given this possible scenario, it

may be prudent for Pacific Northwest preference customers to look to CCA formation in their service territory to provide an alternative wholesale power supply option post-2028. In the interim, current preference customers could provide a host of services to newly formed CCAs to help in the CCA's development and later provide an alternative wholesale power supply provider.

In order to pursue CCA development in the Pacific Northwest, adequate political support will be needed to overcome the likely pushback from the incumbent IOUs. If this political will can be mustered, state-enabling legislation for CCA formation will be needed.

Summary

Community choice aggregation is a utility business model of considerable interest. CCA attributes include customer choice, transparency, less

pollutants, more local economic development, lower rates, and much more local control. However, implementing CCA will require a change in how we all think about the traditional electric utility business model and change is always difficult. Given the changing attitudes of our customer/member base and the uncertainties around BPA's future, looking at the CCA business model in the Pacific Northwest may be timely. **NWPPA**

Gary Saleba is president/CEO of EES Consulting, Inc., a registered professional engineering and management consulting firm with offices in Washington, Oregon, and California. EES has been actively involved in CCA development in California and has been lead technical consultants for eight CCA formations over the past three years. Saleba can be reached at saleba@eesconsulting.com and (425) 889-2700, ext. 206

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- 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: [Executive Director](#)

COMPANY: Pioneer Community Energy (Sacramento, Calif.)

SALARY: DOQ

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 26, 2018

TO APPLY: Email sanderson@bryceconsulting.com.

POSITION: [Economist](#)

COMPANY: Grant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.)

SALARY: \$82,368 - \$115,315 per year

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 28, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.grantpud.org.

POSITION: [Human Resources Assistant - Part-Time](#)

COMPANY: Columbia River PUD (Deer Island, Ore.)

SALARY: \$23.88 - \$34.09 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 29, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.crpud.net/jobs.

POSITION: [System Engineer](#)

COMPANY: Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.)

SALARY: \$100,000 per year

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 31, 2018

TO APPLY: Email bmadan@opalco.com.

POSITION: [Safety Coordinator](#)

COMPANY: Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.chelanpud.org.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)

COMPANY: Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.)

SALARY: \$45.35 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 31, 2018

TO APPLY: Email bmadan@opalco.com.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)

COMPANY: Pacific Power (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: \$44.97 per hour

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 28, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.pacificpower.net/about/careers.html.

POSITION: [Engineering & Operations Manager](#)

COMPANY: Northern Lights, Inc. (Sagle, Idaho)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 22, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.nli.coop/about/employment/.

POSITION: [Senior Protection Engineer](#)

COMPANY: Electric Power Systems, Inc. (Anchorage, Alaska)

SALARY: \$95,000 - \$135,000 per year

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 24, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit <http://www.epsii.com/>.

POSITION: [Senior Manager of Rates & Pricing](#)

COMPANY: Grant County Public Utility District (Ephrata, Wash.)

SALARY: \$125,840 - \$176,176 per year

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 22, 2018

TO APPLY: Visit www.grantpud.org.

POSITION: [Engineer I \(R17-445\)](#)

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 24, 2018

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

POSITION: [Protection Electrical Engineer II/III R17-425](#)

COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 23, 2018

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

POSITION: [Engineer II/III Electrical \(R17-633\)](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 23, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Public Relations Manager](#)
COMPANY: Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.)
SALARY: DOQ
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.penlight.org/about/jobs/.

POSITION: [Specialist V, Geospatial Information Systems \(R18-304\)](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 28, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: City of Cascade Locks (Cascade Locks, Ore.)
SALARY: City of Cascade Locks, IBEW union scale per day
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.cascade-locks.or.us.

POSITION: [General Manager](#)
COMPANY: Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.)
SALARY: \$130,000 - \$158,000 DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 27, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit <http://mason-pud1.org/employmentbids/>.

POSITION: [Operations Superintendent](#)
COMPANY: Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Barrow, Alaska)
SALARY: \$132,410 - \$202,255 per year; DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 16, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.bueci.org/employment.

POSITION: [Specialist III, Utility Asset Management \(R18-263\)](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 16, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Canby Utility (Canby, Ore.)
SALARY: \$44.70 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 31, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.canbyutility.org/about/jobs.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Northern Wasco County PUD (The Dalles, Ore.)
SALARY: \$46.71 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.nwasco.com/jobs.cfm.

POSITION: [Engineering & Operations Manager](#)
COMPANY: Clatskanie People's Utility District (Clatskanie, Ore.)
SALARY: DOQ
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 29, 2018
TO APPLY: Email hr@clatskaniepud.com.

POSITION: [Engineering Services Supervisor](#)
COMPANY: Mason County PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.)
SALARY: DOQ
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 10, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.pud3.org/service/about-us/employment-opportunities.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman U18-010](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)
SALARY: \$44.91 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 9, 2018
TO APPLY: Visit www.portlandgeneral.com/careers.

POSITION: [Payroll Specialist](#)
COMPANY: Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. (Palmer, Alaska)
SALARY: \$22.12 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 31, 2018
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POSITION: [Utility Technician I](#)
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