

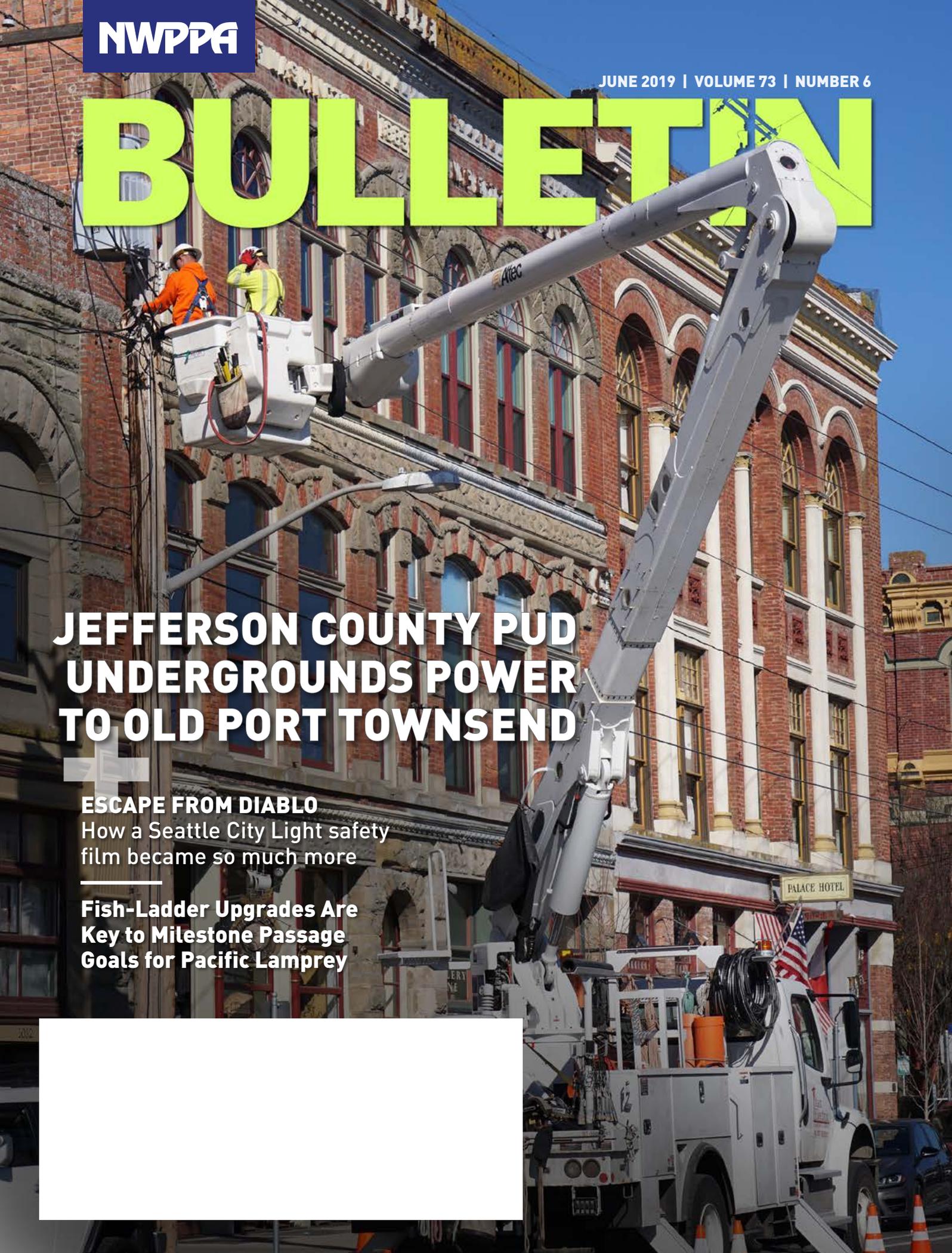
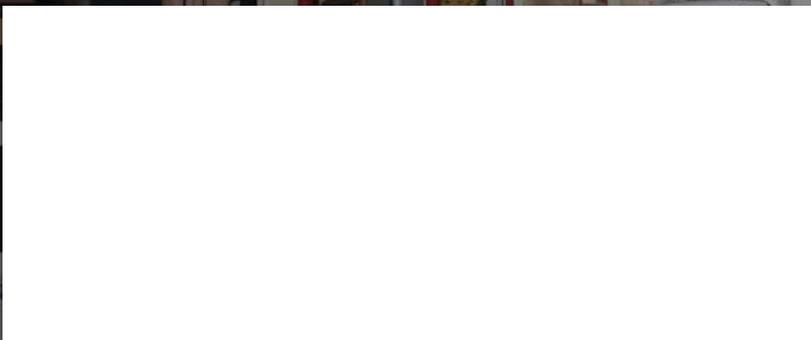
BULLETIN

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUD UNDERGROUNDS POWER TO OLD PORT TOWNSEND

ESCAPE FROM DIABLO

How a Seattle City Light safety film became so much more

Fish-Ladder Upgrades Are Key to Milestone Passage Goals for Pacific Lamprey





On the cover: Jefferson County PUD was up for the challenge of converting electrical and communications service from overhead to underground in Port Townsend's historic district. Special Projects Coordinator Scott Bancroft (above) was in charge of obtaining the permits for the downtown project.

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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JUNE 2019 | VOLUME 73 | NUMBER 6

- 3 NWPPA News
- 10 Training Opportunities
- 12 Safety
- 14 Fish
- 16 Engineering and Operations
- 18 Member News
- 22 Associate Member News
- 24 Washington, D.C.
- 26 Cover Story
- 30 Job Opportunities

SHIFT HAPPENED IN SACRAMENTO

We all know that Shifts Happen, and it showed up in full swing in Sacramento, Calif., at NWPPA's Annual Conference & Membership Meeting. At this year's conference, we shifted toward the new opportunities we can create for our members and customers now and in the future.

The conference started off with a jaw-dropping look at our future customers—Generation Z—delivered by Craig Boice in his keynote presentation. Will we need to shift our thinking about customers in order to meet their unique needs?

John Roukema, retired chief electric utility officer from the City of Santa Clara, and Rick Kubin, CEO of Grid Democracy, shared their blockchain project, the technology behind it, and the outcomes expected.

The afternoon kicked off at a fast pace with Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association's Ryan Hall providing a tutorial on how not to be a YouTube star. Be careful because smart phone cameras are everywhere!

A shift to wildfire alert technology and the changes in fire management over the years was the topic presented by retired CEO of Western Fire Chiefs, Jeff Johnson, and University of Oregon's Dr. Doug Toomey. The day was finished with a panel, which included Thor Hinckley of Forth Mobility, Rob Barossa of Electrify America, and Bill Boyce of SMUD, discussing the changes, programs, and opportunities for the future in electric and autonomous vehicles. They also touched on the infrastructure and customer programs that support the vehicles.

On Wednesday, Brian Flanagan of Perficient dazzled attendees with changes in technology and the impact on the consumer experience. Rachel Huang of SMUD gave a quick view of shifting strategies across the large municipal utility. Brian Murrell of Deloitte & Touche provided a data-filled recap of the new normal for the future across the broad spectrum of the energy world. Yoav Lurie, CEO of Simple Energy, used consumer satisfaction data to show how using the utility as a marketplace for energy saving consumer products puts the utility back in the role of energy expert.

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative General Manager Meera Kohler, City of Roseville General Manager Michelle Bertolino, Missoula Electric Cooperative General Manager Mark Hayden, and Seattle City Light CEO Debra Smith sat on a panel and provided insights into their shifting worlds, including what makes them excited for the future and what keeps them up at night. The final keynote speaker, Sarah Sladek, CEO of XYZ University, engaged and energized the crowd with ways to look at the multi-levels of generations working together today and how they might collaborate and communicate for the best possible outcome tomorrow. Available presentations can be found at nwppa.org, Members tab, Conference Materials.

During the business meeting on Tuesday, the membership elected new trustees, voted to adopt the 2019 legislative resolutions, and heard the state of the association from Executive Director Scott Corwin. 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 4 and 5 for more information about both.)

The Wednesday evening banquet closed out the event and honored President Scott Egbert for his service to NWPPA and its membership.

Mark your calendars for next year's event in Kennewick, Wash., May 17-20, 2020. For more photos from Sacramento, visit www.facebook.com/NWPPAAssoc. **NWPPA**



(L-R) Meera Kohler, Michelle Bertolino, Debra Smith, and Mark Hayden.



Homer Electric General Manager Brad Janorschke is all smiles at Sunday's EV Expo.

Q&A with NWPPA's New President, Ron Holmes



The NWPPA Board of Trustees has elected Ron Holmes to be the 2019-2020 NWPPA Board of Trustees president. Holmes will serve a one-year term as board president. Holmes, who has over 10 years of utility experience, joined the NWPPA Board of Trustees in 2012. A rancher by trade, he and his wife live on the family ranch in Kent, Ore. In addition to farming their own wheat and barley, Holmes does custom cutting for several farmers throughout Sherman County. Holmes was elected to the Wasco Electric Board of Directors in 2008 and currently serves as the vice president.

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

Holmes: NWPPA has grown into an organization that has become the premier organization for education, communication, and legislative issues within our region.

NWPPA: How has public power changed in the last 10-20 years?

Holmes: The industry has always provided low-cost power, but over the years we've been able to make it more and more reliable, which benefits the members, the community, and the utility.

NWPPA: What have you learned from your Wasco Electric Board experience that you will use as NWPPA board president?

Holmes: My experience on the Wasco Electric Board will help me effectively communicate the will of the board and direction of NWPPA to the membership.

NWPPA: What do you see as the current challenges at Wasco Electric Cooperative?

Holmes: The biggest challenge is continuing to provide low-cost and reliable power to Wasco Electric's members in the ever-changing generation market.

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

Holmes: The ever-changing generation market is a challenge for the entire industry, not just Wasco Electric.

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

Holmes: My biggest goal is to assist Scott Corwin as he sets his leadership vision for the organization.

NWPPA: What is your fondest NWPPA memory/moment?

Holmes: Making friends that will last beyond my 10 years as a board member.

NWPPA: Any hobbies outside of the public power world?

Holmes: I recently obtained my pilots license and love flying an airplane. **NWPPA**

NWPPA Board Announces Its 2019-2020 Officers, Trustees

At last month's Annual Meeting, the NWPPA Board of Trustees announced the following officers:

- President Ron Holmes of Wasco Electric Cooperative (The Dalles, Ore.)
- First Vice President Bradley Janorschke of Homer Electric Association (Alaska)
- Second Vice President Michelle Bertolino of Roseville Electric Utility (Calif.)
- Secretary/Treasurer Dave Kelsey of Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative (Huntley, Mont.)

- Immediate Past President Scott Egbert of Wells Rural Electric Company (Nev.)

Along with the officer announcements, the membership elected the following nine members to serve a first three-year term on the NWPPA Board of Trustees: Teresa O'Neill, Silicon Valley Power (Santa Clara, Calif.); Frankie McDermott, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Calif.); Shawn Filice, Pentiction Electric Utility (B.C.); Bear Prairie, Idaho Falls Power (Idaho); Dan Murphy, Canby Utilities (Ore.); Foster Hildreth, Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (Eastsound, Wash.); John Haarlow, Snohomish County PUD (Everett,

Wash.); Signo Uddenberg, Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.); and Mark Schuller, Cheney Light Department (Wash.).

In addition to the above nine, Thomas Wolff of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative (Heppner, Ore.) and Bill Swick of Kootenai Electric Cooperative (Hayden, Idaho) will also serve their first three-year terms after both filling one-year unexpired terms.

Finally, the membership elected the following four advisors to serve a first three-year term on the NWPPA Board of Trustees: Steve Mills, Cascadia Representatives, LLC; Michael Squires, UAMPS; Jackie Peer, OMICRON; and John Donner, CoBank. **NWPPA**

NWPPA Honors 2019's Annual Award Winners

Last month at its 79th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Sacramento, Calif., NWPPA presented the following awards to individuals within the public power community.

Life Member Award

NWPPA honored two individuals this year: Ed Jenkins of Tillamook PUD (Tillamook, Ore.) and John Roukema of Silicon Valley Power (Santa Clara, Calif.).

Ed Jenkins joined the Tillamook PUD Board of Directors in 1989 and served as board president six times. He was very active during his time as a director on the Tillamook PUD Board, focusing on every aspect within the electric utility industry and engaging in several associated organizations.

John Roukema (ret.) spent 41 years in the electric industry, with 38 of those years at Silicon Valley Power. He spent 35 years of his career as a part of the utility's management team, being promoted to assistant director in 1986 and then to director of the utility in 2007. His title changed to chief electric utility officer in 2018.



Paul J. Raver Community Service Award

NWPPA honored two this year: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Calif.) and Terry Brewer of Grant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.).

SMUD has spent more than 70 years giving back to its customers in many ways, working to make life better for all who live, work, and play in the Sacramento community. SMUD keeps its customers and community at the heart of all they do. SMUD General Manager Arlen Orchard accepted the award on behalf of the utility.

Terry Brewer arrived in Central Washington in 1997 to assume leadership of the Grant County EDC and quickly forged a close partnership with Grant PUD. In 2006, he was elected to the Grant County PUD Commission and served two six-year terms before concluding his service in December 2018.



William "Bill" McCorie Distinguished Service Award

Anita Decker (ret.) served as NWPPA's executive director for five of the 39 years she spent in the utility industry. Under Decker, NWPPA experienced an expansion in membership. She also worked tirelessly on defending and promoting public power to the membership on both the federal, legislative, and regional levels. Decker retired on May 3, 2019.



NWPPA President's Award

Nard Smith (ret.) was NWPPA's main point of contact with GES, the decorating contractor for the annual Engineering & Operations Trade Show, for almost 40 years. He always went above and beyond to make sure that NWPPA, its onsite staff, and the vendors had everything they needed. While Nard was working the trade show floor, his wife **Carol** was a tireless volunteer at the registration desk.



Homer T. Bone Award

Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) has demonstrated his strong support over many years for a wide variety of issues important to consumer-owned electric utilities. He has been forward-thinking in introducing and signing on to legislation beneficial to public power, and has made himself available to hear issues of importance to public power.



(L-R) Consumer Power's Roman Gillen and Bill Ranch, Wasco Electric's Ron Holmes, Rep. Kurt Schrader, NWPPA's Scott Corwin, Clatskanie PUD's Marc Farmer, and EWEB's Frank Lawson.

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

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION ENTRIES DUE THIS MONTH!

In order to continue the Excellence in Communication contest's record-breaking streak again this year, we thought we would make it as easy as possible to enter by revisiting some of the most frequently asked questions we have received over the recent years. Enjoy and good luck to everyone!

Q: How do I pay?

A: New this year: NWPPA will invoice utilities for their entries. To keep our members' financial information as safe as possible, we will no longer be collecting credit card information on the entry forms. We expect this update to streamline the entry process and look forward to your feedback about it. Expect to receive an invoice for your entries by early July.

Q: Which annual report do I enter?

A: Submit the one that was written and produced in 2018, not 2019; for most utilities, this means you will want to submit your 2017 Annual Report. (Yes, it confuses us, too!)

Q: Which calendar do I enter for the Special Publications category?

A: Submit your 2019 calendar because that should be what you produced in 2018.

Q: Can I send every issue of our newsletter for 2018?

A: Yes, please do! A June issue and an October issue of the same newsletter should not be two separate entries; they should be entered as one Newsletter entry and the separate editions are helpful examples of the newsletter for the judges.

Q: If I entered my website last year, can I enter it again this year?

A: Yes, assuming you have maintained it at some point during 2018, which you should have! Be sure to briefly explain the updates to the website in an attached statement of purpose.

Q: What is a statement of purpose?

A: These help the judges understand the meaning and success of an entry. The statements do not need to be lengthy, but if you can include an explanation of its purpose, the targeted audience, and its measured success, the judges really appreciate that information. Without that information, judges can't assess how successful a nice-looking brochure/bill insert/website was, or even why a utility created it or what they used it for.

Q: We have a Facebook account and an Instagram account that we used to publicize our solar project. How do we enter that?

If you have a social media campaign that uses multiple platforms to convey the same message (such as a solar project, rate change, energy efficiency rebate, etc.), it should be entered under Category 3, Advertising Campaign.

Q: We have a Twitter account, a Facebook account, and a YouTube channel that we update separately (no consistent advertising campaign used throughout them). How do we enter those?

A: Choose your two strongest accounts and enter them separately as two Social Media entries. Or find a common thread to them all and enter that as an Advertising Campaign. Do not enter all three as one Social Media entry.

Q: How do I enter the People's Choice Award for Photography?

A: All photo EIC entries are automatically entered into the People's Choice contest and will be viewed by your peers at the Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) Welcome Reception in September. To be eligible for the People's Choice Award, you must submit your entry into the EIC contest. You can submit two photos. This year there will again be three People's Choice Awards: best photo of an employee, best photo of a child/children, and best photo of miscellaneous.

Q: How do I choose what photo(s) to enter?

A: Remember that photos must be utility related—judges have scored low in the past if they do not see a utility connection.

Q: What is the best way to package my entries?

A: Please mail in everything: one hard copy of printed materials (annual reports, newsletters, calendars, posters, bill inserts, coloring books, etc.), physical items (mugs, t-shirts, tchotchkes, etc.), and jump drives for digital entries (videos, radio ads, etc.). Because we sometimes have multiple judges in the office at one time, it is also best to send entries on separate jump drives. For example, if you have one video for an Advertising Campaign entry and another for an Internal Communication entry, please send two separate jump drives whenever possible.

The Call for Entries includes even more information about what and how to enter. If you did not receive one, you may download the brochure at www.nwppa.org; the Call for Entries can be found near the bottom of the Communications page under the Member Resources tab. All entries and fees must be postmarked by Friday, June 28.

The winning entries and utilities will be honored at Tuesday's evening reception at the NIC. This year the NIC is heading somewhere new for this conference—it will be held at the Tulalip Resort, September 16-18. Look for more information about the conference in upcoming *Bulletins*. Also, be sure to follow us on Facebook for weekly examples of the winning entries from 2018.

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

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Flexible. Relevant. Effective.

NWPPA offers many forms of training to ensure your success. When it comes to providing training within the Northwest public power industry, NWPPA is unsurpassed. Drawing from decades of training experience, our programs offer high-quality, regional, and affordable events. Few know that NWPPA schedules nearly 250 events each year; but fewer are aware that NWPPA can bring each class to your specific location. In fact, many training courses in our catalog are available through an in-house format.

An in-house training program brings the instructor to you. This format significantly reduces the travel costs and downtime from work. The lower cost per attendee means that you can train more of your staff with less disruption to your operations. Likewise, the shared learning creates a common experience, language, and set of tools across those attendees from your organization.

Another feature of our in-house training programs includes configured curriculum. Instead of a one-size-fits-all format, imagine a training plan that can help meet your educational goals, and/or specifically address and answer issues that are affecting your organization. We can work with our many instructors to build a program that works for you. This degree of flexibility means that you are able to use NWPPA as a key part—or all—of your training department.

Whether you have only a dozen individuals who require training or if your entire staff is seeking to learn more, in-house training may be the perfect solution for your workforce development. Our comprehensive catalog of events offers training on a wide variety of subjects focused on helping your staff increase their knowledge, performance, and capabilities.

Your training team (Elaine Dixon, Dale Mayuiers, Jenny Keeseey, Taryn Johnson, and Nicole Farabee) and the entire NWPPA staff work together to bring you the highest quality, most affordable educational opportunities to our membership. We appreciate each opportunity to serve you and are always available to help you with your training needs. Contact any of our training managers at (360) 254-0109 to discuss options in one area or across all areas of learning. **NWPPA**

A Look Back at Public Power

50 YEARS AGO – 1969

George Hoynes, manager of Big Flat Electric Cooperative, was elected as the mayor of Malta, Mont. ... Seattle City Light and Snohomish PUD announced plans for a nuclear plant on Kiket Island in Skagit County, Wash. ... Grant County PUD commissioners authorized the utility's manager to proceed with the purchase of the Grand Coulee electric system for \$570,000 (Wash.) ... Flathead Electric Cooperative received a \$513,000 REA loan to finance 24 miles of distribution line to serve 234 new consumers (Mont.) ... The City of Cascade Locks, Ore., celebrated making the final payment on their system, a process that began 31 years ago this month.

25 YEARS AGO – 1994

Gary Splattstoesser, supervisor of support services for Benton County PUD, became the new chair of NWPPA's Hazardous Materials Task Force (Wash.) ... Jerry Leone was named the new manager of the Public Power Council; she replaced Bill Drummond who resigned to become general manager of the Western Montana G&T ... Lower Valley Power & Light's Comprehensive Integrated Resource Plan was approved by the membership at its annual meeting (Wyo.) ... The Conservation and Renewable Energy System, an association of eight Washington PUDs (Benton, Clallam, Franklin, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Okanogan, Pacific, and Skamania), received the Northwest Power Planning Council Energy Efficiency Award for Best Innovative Program.

5 YEARS AGO – 2014

Cowlitz PUD announced a new service option that allows residential utility customers to prepay for their electricity (Wash.) ... Tacoma Power won its third-straight Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters Award from the National Hydropower Association (Wash.) ... Benton PUD received the Tree Line USA Award for the 15th consecutive year (Wash.) ... Columbia REA Safety Trainer John Spain completed the Loss Control Internship in conjunction with the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association (Wash.) ... The Yukon-Kuskokwim hub community of Bethel (population 6,278) became the 56th community served by Alaska Village Electric Cooperative. **NWPPA**

JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER 2019

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

930.1 ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW ACCOUNTABILITY

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

July 9, 2019—Bend, Ore.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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

July 10-11, 2019—Leavenworth, Wash.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON

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

July 16, 2019—Spokane, Wash.

ONLINE — ENGINEERING WEBINAR SERIES SINGLE-PHASE METERING

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

July 16–September 10, 2019—Online

ONLINE — SINGLE-PHASE METERING

July 16, 2019—Online

ONLINE — THREE-PHASE METERING

August 13, 2019—Online

ONLINE — BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

September 10, 2019—Online

NEW! ONLINE — CFO AND SENIOR ACCOUNTANT WEBINAR SERIES

Who Should Attend: CFOs, senior accountants, accounting staff, and finance staff who want to better understand the cost of service and rate design components.

July 17–September 12, 2019—Online

ONLINE — COST OF SERVICE STUDY AND RATE DESIGN

July 17, 2019—Online

ONLINE — STRATEGY AND EXECUTION

August 15, 2019—Online

ONLINE — FINANCIAL METRICS

September 12, 2019—Online

AVIAN PROTECTION PLAN WORKSHOP

Who Should Attend: Managers and staff responsible for or assisting in the development and maintenance of avian protection plans.

July 17-18, 2019—Spokane, Wash.

DISTRIBUTION ENGINEERING SERIES: SESSION 2—OVERCURRENT PROTECTION

Who Should Attend: Engineers and senior technical personnel involved in selecting and coordinating overcurrent protection devices.

July 17-18, 2019—Vancouver, Wash.

FOREMAN LEADERSHIP ACCELERATED PROGRAM PART 2

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders who have participated in Foreman Leadership Accelerated Program Part 1.

July 23-25, 2019—Aberdeen, Wash.

MANAGING AND LEADING CHANGE

Who Should Attend: Anyone experiencing or anticipating change within his or her utility, especially those driving change, tasked with implementing change, and communicating about change with customers and members.

July 30-31, 2019—Vancouver, Wash.

NEW! DO'S AND DON'TS OF CUSTOMER BANKRUPTCY

Who Should Attend: Employees within the customer service, credit, and collections departments of public power utilities.

August 6, 2019—Vancouver, Wash.

NEW! SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES

Who Should Attend: Employees within the customer service, credit, and collections departments of public power utilities.

August 7, 2019—Vancouver, Wash.

NEW! WASHINGTON UTILITIES RECORDS MANAGEMENT MEETING

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

August 8, 2019—Richland, Wash.

RAISING YOUR ENERGY IQ, 201

Who Should Attend: All utility employees, especially those who interact with customers; employees who have the need to explain residential home energy consumption; and employees in member/customer service, conservation, marketing, community outreach, and renewable energy.

August 20-21, 2019—Portland, Ore.

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING

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

September 10, 2019–Bend, Ore.

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 10-11, 2019–Vancouver, Wash.

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

Who Should Attend: This is required training for first responders who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and need to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper people; it is also for 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 11, 2019–Bend, Ore.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: LINEMAN RIGGING

Who Should Attend: Linemen and line crew foremen.

September 11, 2019–Sacramento, Calif.

LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: EQUIPOTENTIAL GROUNDING

Who Should Attend: Line crew supervisors and managers, crew foremen, linemen, and substation workers.

September 12, 2019–Sacramento, Calif.

SPCC PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR UTILITY PERSONNEL

Who Should Attend: All employees with environmental responsibilities, including supervisors and managers that oversee environmental programs, as well as employees that develop, implement, and manage oil spill prevention plans.

September 12, 2019–Bend, Ore.

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE (NIC)

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

September 16-18, 2019–Tulalip, Wash.

ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

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

September 17-18, 2019–Spokane, Wash.

NEW! USING BODY LANGUAGE AND IMPROVISATION TO GET WHAT YOU NEED

Who Should Attend: Any professional who wants to improve communication and engagement by taking a fresh approach to how you see, interact, and react to situations.

September 18, 2019–Tulalip, Wash.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS #2: LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES

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

September 18-19, 2019–Newport, Ore.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WORKSHOP

Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive assistants, and clerks to the board.

September 19-20, 2019–Boise, Idaho

UNBUNDLED COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN

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

September 25-26, 2019–Spokane, Wash. **NWPPA**



ESCAPE FROM DIABLO

How a Seattle City Light safety film became so much more

By Nathan MacDonald

Safety is paramount to our line of work, regardless if you are stationed in an office, a warehouse, or in the field. There are safety protocols for nearly any task or project, and those protocols typically are communicated through staid training videos that often amount to someone reading an instruction manual.

But what if training films were produced like an action movie? What if they opened with a description like this?

It's a summer morning in Western Washington. A utility right-of-way crew sees a raging fire swallowing the mountainside racing towards a hydroelectric powerhouse. Employees race to evacuate with their loved ones as firefighters battle the flames and protect their beloved community.

Will they all evacuate the area in time...safely!?

While this may feel like the trailer of the next summer blockbuster, this actually sets the scene for the opening of an evacuation protocol film produced by Seattle City Light for its Skagit Hydroelectric Project.

In 2017, City Light Videographer Koryn Kennedy and City Light's Newhalem-Diablo Fire Brigade Chief Cody Watson wanted to make an instructional film for the communities of Diablo (Die-ab-low) and Newhalem. City Light employees, who work at the dams that City Light owns and operates, and their families live in these towns. The goal was to lay out the steps of what to do during an evacuation and they wanted to ensure that it was entertaining, educational, and, most importantly, memorable in a time of crisis.

This idea led to the creation of "Escape from Diablo" ("EFD"), a 12-minute safety film that includes action movie archetypes with Skagit Hydroelectric Project employees serving as the acting talent. The project grew to become more than a film, bringing a community together and transforming a standard safety procedure into something unforgettable.

Learning from the past

"EFD," although funny at times, was inspired by an unprecedented and destructive event: the Goodell Creek Fire. In 2015, lightning struck Ross Mountain

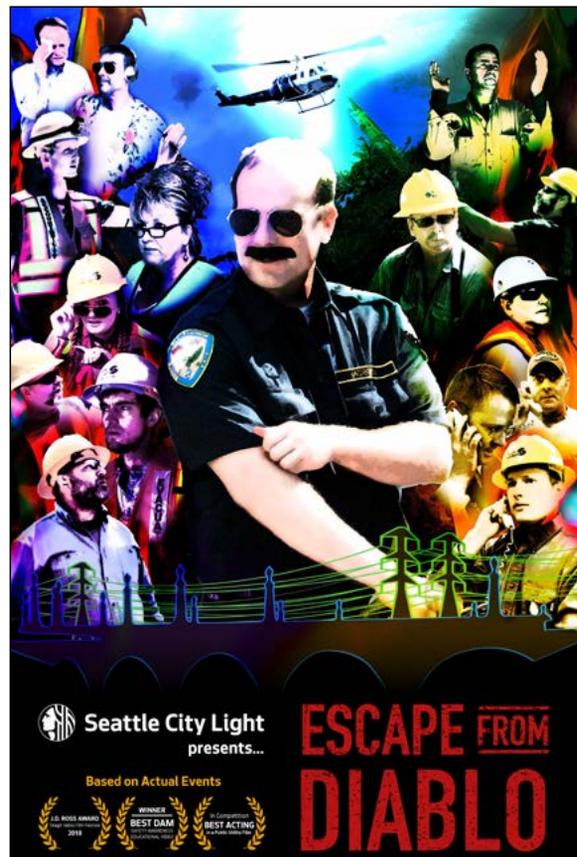
in the North Cascades National Park Complex, less than a mile away from the Skagit Hydroelectric Project. The combination of the blaze engulfing the area in flames and the limited amount of aid and resources available put the project at risk. As the fire reached the boundaries of City Light's facilities, the utility evacuated all of its employees and residents, along with visitors to the area.

The utility and its Newhalem-Diablo Fire Brigade also provided support for the surrounding resorts, national park centers, and small towns within the area. It took nearly 20 days to contain the fire even with the support of 300 volunteer firefighters. All told, the fire burned more than 8,000 acres and cost the utility \$2.2 million in damages, response, and labor, along with \$900,000 of power purchases and generation loss. Thankfully, no significant injuries were reported.

"The Goodell Creek Fire became a jarring reminder that wildfires in Western Washington, which were unheard of, were now a present threat to our region," said Watson. "Following the fire, we established evacuation procedures, so both City Light employees and residents of Diablo and Newhalem know what to do in the event of an emergency."

Lights, camera, action!

Kennedy had her work cut out for her. She was the director, producer, and entire production team of "EFD," with occasional support from an intern or colleague willing to hold a boom mic. Most of the footage needed to be filmed at the Skagit Hydroelectric Project, roughly 130 miles northeast of her office in Seattle, and she had to coordinate the cast of 20 City Light employees. Nevertheless, filming took place over a few months and garnered more excitement with each shoot.



"EFD" is set during a fire similar to the Goodell Creek Fire that's approaching Newhalem and Diablo. With little time to act, the City Light employees implement the new evacuation plan created by Watson and his team. Each scene goes through the procedure step by step with intermittent pauses to define critical terms typed out on the screen. Finally, the community evacuates the area safely because they followed protocol even if at times it may have been easier to cut corners. "EFD" closes with Watson (the protagonist in the Aviator sunglasses and fake mustache) explaining that the film was created to provide a visual element for their plan.

Along with its instructional aspect, "EFD" was written with a niche audience in mind: the tight-knit community of Skagit Hydroelectric Project employees who are not just coworkers but neighbors and friends. Kennedy ensured that "EFD" honored that community. With that in

mind, the film includes a myriad of inside jokes suggested by the employees/actors explicitly meant for the community while still being funny to a larger audience. It was authentic, lighthearted, and never lost sight of the seriousness of the subject at hand.

“I believe there are three things that connect people: humor, cultural references, and people they know,” Kennedy explained. “‘Escape from Diablo’ is fun to watch because it’s not taking the subject lightly. Instead, it uses humor and the target audience is in on the joke. The actors were willing to be a little campy because they care so much about their community. They want to make sure that everyone remembers what to do when disaster strikes.”

Taking “Escape from Diablo” to the big screen

With “EFD” in the can, Kennedy and Watson were ready for its debut. But how can a film of its magnitude just be relegated to a YouTube channel only to be referenced occasionally? A film like this called for a premiere. That’s when Kennedy and Watson brought in Chris Armstrong, City Light’s senior outreach and engagement specialist, to help organize the Baker Street Block Party, a community event in Concrete, Wash., near the Skagit Hydroelectric Project. Armstrong worked on premiering the film at the block party and providing the surrounding communities with an opportunity to connect with City Light and local emergency management agencies in a unique way.

“This might be the first event I’ve planned that was over 100 miles away,” Armstrong said, laughing. “City Light’s Communications team doesn’t work or live in the area, but our employees do. We turned to them for guidance regularly to find out who we needed to connect with locally. Engaging with those stakeholders was vital to ensure that it wasn’t just a team from Seattle trying to put on an event. Having advocates who grew up in that community was crucial.”



(L-R) Koryn Kennedy and Chris Armstrong introduce “Escape from Diablo” at the Concrete Theatre.

Early on, the City Light team connected with Valerie Stafford, the owner of the Concrete Theatre and president of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce. She loved the idea of a premiere and was happy to connect the community with City Light.

On a warm July night in 2018, “EFD” was ready for its premiere at the Baker Street Block Party. The party included a “touch-a-truck” with emergency vehicles of all kinds for the kids, safety tips from local agencies for the parents, and a time for the utility to connect with its neighbors. The event also included a display describing the Goodell Creek Fire, and even Smokey Bear made an appearance. The premiere included two showings of the film at the Concrete Theatre followed by panel discussions with local emergency management officials and a climatologist from the University of Washington to discuss current protocols and the increasing threat of wildfires in the area due to climate change.

The sold-out crowds loved the film. They cheered for their coworkers on screen, laughed at the inside jokes, and asked specific questions to find out how they could prepare in case of an emergency.

“The local community was impressed that City Light put so much effort into bringing such a fun and informative event to our area,” said Stafford. “To have a few hundred people attend an event like this is huge and speaks to what it meant to our community.”

Reaching the communities your utility impacts

Like other utilities, City Light operates in communities outside of its service territory. Though opportunities to connect directly with these communities at this level may be rare, it’s essential to identify them as they arise to provide a potentially lasting impact while fostering new relationships.

For Jenny Levesque, City Light’s community outreach manager, even though communities like those near the Skagit Hydroelectric Project aren’t City Light customers, the utility’s presence is apparent and affects their lives.

“It’s important to be aware of the impact we have in these communities and for them to know that they are appreciated,” Levesque explained. “The event in Concrete was an opportunity for us to connect with our employees while giving back to the local community.”

Since the “EFD” premiere and Baker Street Block Party, the event has been recognized as a best practice for utilities and public safety agencies alike. It has been referenced at conferences and is still a topic of conversation throughout City Light. At its core, “EFD” exemplifies City Light’s value of safety and to ensure that standard operating procedures are followed during a catastrophe.

“Any project that aligns and promotes your utility’s values should be embraced and celebrated,” said Faz Kasraie, City Light’s generation operations and engineering director who helped champion the project. “The film and the event never lost sight of the importance that we value the lives of our employees, their families, and their communities.” **NWPPA**

Nathan MacDonald is a senior public relations specialist in the Communications Department at Seattle City Light. He can be contacted at Nathan.MacDonald@seattle.gov.



Fish-Ladder Upgrades Are Key to Milestone Passage Goals for Pacific Lamprey

By Christine Pratt

Fish-ladder upgrades are making it easier for the eel-like Pacific lamprey to pass both Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams in numbers great enough to help secure an important milestone—a 10-year no-net-impact agreement between Grant PUD and its state and federal oversight agencies and tribes.

The agreement, reached in April 2018, affirms that migratory Pacific lamprey are now virtually unaffected by the operations of Grant PUD’s Columbia River dams.

In 2017, a record 26,000 lamprey were counted passing Priest Rapids Dam and nearly 28,500 passing Wanapum Dam, 18 miles upriver. The higher total at Wanapum likely included lamprey that overwintered in the Priest Rapids reservoir before continuing upriver to spawn—a habit common not only to lamprey, but also steelhead, says Grant PUD Senior Biologist Mike Clement.

These are some of the highest counts ever recorded past Grant PUD dams.

Studies of tagged lamprey as they enter and exit the ladders show a five-year average passage efficiency of 84% at Priest Rapids and 87% at Wanapum. That’s a substantial gain from the 70% at Priest Rapids and 50% at Wanapum recorded before the fish-ladder improvements.

Grant PUD engineering staff and mechanical crews in 2008 and 2009 installed solid aluminum plating around the edges of the grillwork on each of the fish ladders’ steps, as well as at other strategic locations (see photos).

The plating gives the lamprey a solid surface to latch onto with their suction-cup mouths, helping them fight the current as they navigate their way up the ladder.

The plating method was developed by the federal NOAA Fisheries in the late 1990s. It had never been installed in an actual fish ladder on a mainstem-river dam until Grant PUD biologists took a chance and gave it a try.

“The ladders were typically designed for salmon, but lamprey are very different than salmon,” Clement said. “They’re not as strong of swimmers and have different physiological characteristics. They swim close to the bottom through rivers and structures making them difficult to study.”

Researchers had also discovered that lamprey were skirting the ladders’ counting windows but still getting past the dams by swimming through gaps in the metal grating at the entrance to the old count windows. Crews replaced this grating with a finer mesh to cut off escape routes.

Grant PUD’s federal license to operate its dams requires the utility to offset mortality from predators or other sources during fish passage. Even with the success of the fish-ladder improvements, passage efficiency still fell a bit short of the virtually 100% passage needed to achieve the no-net-impact goal.

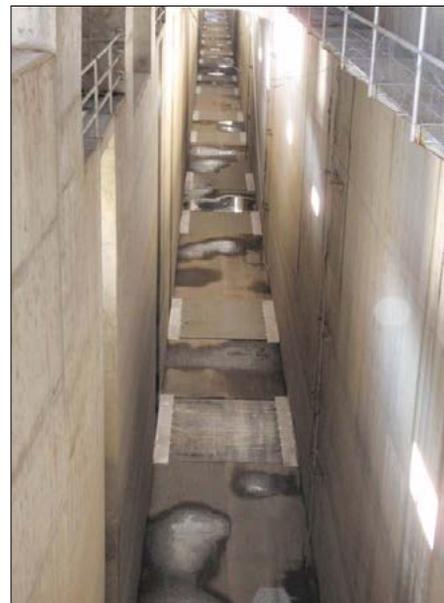
Grant PUD negotiated with its oversight agencies and tribes to compensate for the remaining deficit.

Grant agreed to use its four adult lamprey traps in the fish ladders at Priest Rapids Dam to capture as many adult lamprey as possible for three weeks during peak migration, approximately July. Trapping occurs at night, when lamprey are most active. The trapping will happen annually for the duration of the 10-year agreement.

The trapped fish are then trucked upriver and released above Chelan PUD’s Rock Island Dam, effectively guaranteeing they make it safely past both Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs and beyond Grant PUD’s license area.

The trap-and-transport agreement renders further, potentially costly mitigation unnecessary, Clement said.

“This was the most comprehensive lamprey study ever done on the mid-Columbia,” he said of the research, analysis, and ladder modifications included



(Top) Fish ladder with aluminum plating.
(Bottom) A lamprey ramp ladder.

in the 18-year, \$2.7 million project. Our research shows that lamprey were having trouble navigating the ladders at our dams,” Clement said. “In fact, main-stem Columbia River dams were widely thought to be the problem for reduced lamprey. This is a good example of natural-resource and engineering staff finding creative solutions to achieving our license requirements.” **NWPPA**

Christine Pratt is the public affairs officer at Grant PUD in Ephrata, Wash. She can be reached at cpratt@gcpud.org.



About Pacific lamprey

Lamprey are a sacred fish to Columbia Basin tribes and were a staple food source with their thick, oily flesh. Unlike eels, which have gills and a hinged jaw, lamprey have lines of breathing holes and a round, open mouth that exposes fearsome rings of sharp teeth.

Although migratory, their bodies are not buoyant like a salmon. They swim along river bottoms, using the strong suction of their mouths to grab onto rocks to keep from drifting with the current. They build nests in river cobble and spawn in the Columbia and its tributaries, but don't appear to imprint on home streams the way salmon do.

In fact, studies have shown that some of the lamprey counted in the Columbia were originally tagged in Russia's Bering

Sea. The fish is also native to Russia, China, and Alaska.

Young lamprey hatch as larva. They drift down stream and burrow into the river sediment, where they live for four to six years, filtering their food as they slowly evolve. When they reach about six inches in length, they drift to the ocean with spring runoff. In the ocean they enter a parasitic phase. They latch onto and feed off host fish. The parasitic phase lasts only while the lamprey are in salt water.

They spend two to three years in the ocean and then return to fresh water, eventually heading upriver to spawn. They reach the mid-Columbia by mid- to late summer and die after spawning, ending an 8- to 10-year lifespan. **NWPPA**

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EPUD's 10-Year Vehicle Replacement Plan Increases Efficiency, Job Safety, and Employee Satisfaction

By Kristine Lindemulder

In 2014, Emerald PUD's fleet demanded attention. Aging vehicles were increasingly in need of repairs, nudging some uncomfortably close to being deemed unreliable. With only three full-time mechanics sharing the responsibility of keeping the fleet rolling, the utility faced an important decision: Continue to make repairs or make a plan for replacements instead?

Having seen the limits of endless repair cycles, Emerald opted for the latter. Work began on developing a schedule that would see all vehicles replaced over the next 10 years. The goal was set: the schedule would optimize the operational life of the fleet while striking a balance between repairs and replacement. It was time for Emerald's longstanding "repair, don't replace" approach to be shelved in favor of acquiring vehicles that would offer much greater reliability and remain in good repair with minimal effort well into the future.

With approval from the board of directors, the fleet plan was put into action. Emerald replaced two of its five tree chippers that same year.

Almost immediately after crews started using the new chippers, it was discovered that the new equipment provided more benefits than just improved reliability. The chippers were equipped with winches to mechanically remove tree debris and potentially reduce crew injuries. Crews also reported that with the new chippers, they could do a large removal in about one day now rather than two to three days.

The plan

The 10-year plan was developed with the expectation to get as much out of the existing fleet as possible without compromising service levels or safety. Replacement schedules were built based on the conservative life expectancy for each vehicle. Whenever possible, primary service vehicles would be moved into



A front view of the new trucks. All photos provided by EPUD.

secondary service (light use) at time of replacement.

Initially, the plan called for a budget of approximately \$500,000 per year for vehicle replacements. It was set to be reevaluated annually as part of the utility's overall budget process. At any time, the plan could be easily adjusted to keep Emerald's overall budget at a reasonable level while still balancing fleet replacement needs. To date, the plan's budget has been reduced twice, and in other years, it has been increased.

Scheduling the vehicle replacements has presented Emerald with several challenges. One challenge has been balancing the varying lead times for different vehicles and equipment. Larger purchases often require longer lead times that, if not planned appropriately, can risk falling into the next budget year and causing adjustments to that year's replacement schedule.

Another challenge has been with manufacturer changes. After learning the manufacturer was discontinuing the model of chippers that Emerald purchased in 2014, it caused a major

adjustment to the replacement schedule. Three more chippers were purchased sooner than expected to match the ones bought in 2014. Although it put other vehicle replacements on hold temporarily, it allowed the utility's shop to stock chipper parts for only one model, and the mechanics to work on only one chipper configuration.

The benefits

Now five years into the 10-year plan, approximately 65% of the utility's 85+ vehicles have been replaced. Emerald has systematically upgraded its fleet of line and tree trucks, engineering vehicles, and employee pool cars—including two electric vehicles. The upgrade has greatly reduced the average vehicle age, lessened the mechanics' workload, and allowed for staff to take advantage of advancements in vehicular safety equipment.

In late February, a mammoth snowstorm, dubbed the "Storm of the Century" in Lane County, passed through the Willamette Valley and buried the District in deep, heavy snow. Emerald's fleet performed perfectly. The new trucks



(Clockwise from top left) The new wire trailer. A new 70-ft bucket stands beside an older 55-ft bucket with (L-R) Tree Crew Foreman Jeff Walton and Journeyman Tree Trimmer Matt Klisenbauer. The new wire trailer (left) next to the old wire trailer.

withstood the harsh winter conditions with ease, allowing crews to remain in the field and restore power.

Increased efficiency, employee satisfaction, and job safety have also resulted from the plan's implementation, with the most important of these being the increase in safety.

"Our fleet program is integral to our safety program," said General Manager Scott Coe. "We must have safe vehicles so our employees can go home healthy at the end of the day. As we've changed out our various vehicles, we've kept an eye on the safety improvements we can get with our new purchases."

The new bucket trucks are a striking contrast to those they replaced. They come with a variety of safety features not seen in any of the old trucks. Once considered luxury items, staples like Bluetooth connectivity, remote start, and back-up cameras now come standard to provide hands-free communication and improved visibility. Buckets have "toe relief" space at the floor of the bucket for a more supported and comfortable stance. The enhanced ergonomic design

of the new trucks promotes good posture, less exertion, fewer repetitive motions, and better heights and reaches, all of which contribute to employee comfort, alertness, and improved safety.

Other customized improvements have addressed specific safety and/or efficiency concerns identified by Emerald's foremen and servicemen. For example, Tree Crew Foreman Jeff Walton had the steps leading up to the bucket altered on his new truck.

"Widening the steps and adding a platform at the top has made loading equipment into the bucket much faster and safer," said Walton. "It's pretty great to be involved in customizing the trucks in ways that make our jobs easier."

As bucket trucks were replaced, several existing 55-foot buckets were upgraded to 70-foot buckets for better access in some of the District's more challenging rural areas.

New wire trailers and a pole trailer have also contributed to making the work more efficient. The wire trailers boast a rotating platform that allows the wire to be turned in the necessary

direction without requiring the truck to be backed up at a precise angle. The pole trailer's improvements include a longer trailer, an area to haul additional equipment, and an electric jack—no more hand cranking to lift up the trailer!

Next in line for 2019: a digger derrick and another bucket truck will be replaced.

All things considered, we are happy with the results of the 10-year plan. It has helped Emerald achieve the reliable, high-performance fleet our crews and our customers deserve. And it will help ensure the fleet stays at a high level of performance in the years to come. **NWPPA**

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

Clark Names Lena Wittler as New GM

In a regular public meeting on May 7, the Clark Public Utilities (Vancouver, Wash.) Board of Commissioners selected **Lena Wittler** as the new general manager and CEO. General Manager and CEO **Wayne Nelson** retained his role as general manager and CEO through June 4 and will remain in the role of general counsel through the end of June.



“This utility is respected in the industry and by our customers and Ms. Wittler has been instrumental in both fostering and nurturing relationships with our various stakeholders,” said Commission President **Nancy Barnes**. “Ms. Wittler has a deep and unique understanding of the opportunities ahead as well as the challenges our industry is facing and provides a measured, data-driven approach to leadership as we execute our priorities going forward.”

Wittler is a 20-year veteran of the utility industry, having served in a variety of finance, human resources, and communications roles, most recently as the director of communications and employee resources, overseeing all communications, public affairs, utility-wide research and analytics, human resources, and loss control.

Prior to her work with the utility she worked in education and judicial support. She holds a B.A. from Willamette University and an M.B.A. from the University of Portland. **NWPPA**

Grays Harbor Outage Numbers Fall

Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.) customers experienced fewer power outages, interruptions, and hours without power in 2018. A review of the utility system found that all three areas fell from 2017 totals and all were below the previous five-year average.



In 2018, PUD customers experienced 296 outages compared to 315 in 2017. That total was well below the five-year average of 400. The total number of customers out of power fell from over 73,000 in 2017 to 54,446, while the total number of impacted customer hours fell from over 264,000 to 198,483.

Tree and branch falls and storm-related issues were the cause of 62% of the 2018 outages, a common culprit of Grays Harbor power interruptions over the years. Major storm events in December 2018 accounted for well over half of the impacted customer hours, but an aggressive vegetation management program is credited with helping reduce those totals.

In addition to trees and storms, car-versus-pole collisions accounted for 16% of the total outages in 2018, while outages caused by equipment or mechanical failure came in at just 12%. **NWPPA**

MECA's Potoczny Promoted to COO

As part of comprehensive office restructuring at Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, **Lea Potoczny** has been promoted to the newly created position of chief operating officer.

In this position, Potoczny is overseeing and supervising office operations. She will take on many of the duties assigned to the former position of assistant general manager, while still serving as MECA's safety coordinator. The AGM position will no longer exist at MECA.

MECA's CEO will retain supervisory authority over all program decision making in its four primary departments: government relations, communications, safety-loss control, and training and education.

Meanwhile, MECA has launched a national search for a full-time government relations person. The goal is to have this position filled by July 1.

Also as part of this restructuring process, MECA has conducted a thorough review of all duties in each of the MECA positions, including the time needed to fulfill each of those requirements. In addition to reassignment of duties as mentioned above, other responsibilities will be shifted as needed to best utilize the abilities and time of the staff. Some of the reassignments will be delayed until the new government relations person is hired. **NWPPA**

Goos Named Water Operator of the Year

The Mason County PUD No. 1 (Potlatch, Wash.) Board of Commissioners recently presented a 2018 Water Operator of the Year plaque to the PUD's lead water system operator, **TJ Goos**. Earlier this spring, Goos was surprised with the announcement of his award at the Evergreen Rural Water of Washington annual conference in Yakima.



(L-R) TJ Goos and Evergreen Rural Water of Washington Executive Director Tracey Hunter.

Tracey Hunter, executive director for ERWoW, cited several reasons that

Goos was chosen for the honor, including his leadership under pressure when one of the District's systems encountered a bad routine sample that required substantial reservoir repairs and coordination between state agencies, the PUD, and customers.

“TJ's leadership has really shined in both emergency situations and ongoing daily operations over the last 18 months. He's very deserving of this award and Evergreen Rural Water has been a great partner and resource to the PUD,” said General Manager **Kristin Masteller**. “We're incredibly proud of the work he has done for the utility on behalf of our ratepayers.” **NWPPA**

SMUD Continues Recreation Upgrades

Some of SMUD's (Sacramento, Calif.) construction projects to upgrade popular Eldorado National Forest campgrounds in the Crystal Basin Recreation Area are completed and some sites will reopen even earlier than planned. That means the area will be able to accommodate the large number of campers, hikers, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts who come every year to enjoy what the forest offers.

The improvements are part of \$150 million in upgrades and enhancements to existing recreation facilities related to SMUD's Upper American River Project hydroelectric power plants throughout the Crystal Basin Recreational Area, mostly around SMUD reservoirs. Information about the recreation facilities and their status is available at smud.org.

Since 1957, SMUD has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to make Crystal Basin a spectacular destination in the Sierra Nevada foothills. It's not only home to the UARP hydroelectric system, but is also open to the public for enjoyment of outdoor recreation. **NWPPA**



Significant upgrades by SMUD to camping facilities at Gerle Creek Reservoir (above) will improve the recreation experience there and at other Crystal Basin Recreation Area around SMUD reservoirs in the Eldorado National Forest.

Cowlitz PUD Hires Steve Taylor

Kelso City Manager Steve Taylor has accepted the position as Cowlitz PUD (Longview, Wash.) director of regulatory and regional affairs, effective July 1.

Taylor came to Kelso after serving as the city administrator in Connell, Wash. Additionally, he was elected to the inaugural council of the newly incorporated City of Spokane Valley, and has worked in a variety of positions in public, private, and non-profit organizations over the course of his career. He participates in the governance of several state and local organizations, including the Cowlitz 911 Public Authority, Cowlitz Economic Development Council, Washington Cities Insurance Authority, Washington City/County Management Association, Municipal Research and Services Center, and Lower Columbia College Head Start Policy Committee.

Taylor is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance and economics and a master's degree in public administration from Eastern Washington University. He is a Credentialed Manager through the International City/County Management Association. **NWPPA**



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SVP Recognized as a Top Utility in Reliability

Silicon Valley Power (Santa Clara, Calif.) was recently designated as a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) at the Gold Level by the American Public Power Association. This designation, which lasts for three years, acknowledges public power utilities that excel in four major areas of operation: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. It is a high honor that reflects SVP's continued commitment to its customers and employees, as well as its leadership in the Santa Clara community.



SVP will continue to strive for the same standard of excellence in all areas of its organization. To further this mission, the utility recently developed its 2018 Strategic Plan. With help from the community, customers, city council, and city executive leadership, SVP outlined its objectives for the next 10 years. The plan paves the way for the SVP team to continue providing safe, reliable service to its customers. It will also guide SVP as it develops innovative and sustainable solutions to any challenges it may face. The Strategic Plan will enable the growth SVP needs to continue standing out as a top-tier public power entity. *NWPPA*

Streett Named as Jefferson PUD GM

On May 7, Jefferson County PUD (Port Townsend, Wash.) commissioners unanimously agreed to make Acting General Manager **Kevin Streett**'s role permanent after an executive session prior to the general business meeting.



Streett, who had left the utility in November to pursue other opportunities, agreed in December to return as acting general manager after **Larry Dunbar** was removed. He planned to serve until commissioners found a replacement for Dunbar. Streett also served as PUD interim general manager between the departure of **Jim Parker** in October 2017 and Dunbar's hiring in March 2018.

Organizational goals, personal and staff development, and communications are expectations the commissioners plan to focus on during Streett's tenure.

"We've had a lot of experience with Kevin and I personally feel indebted to Kevin, and I appreciate him," said Commission President **Jeff Randall**.

Streett originally was hired in November 2012 as the district's first electrical employee and served as electrical superintendent during the utility's transition from providing only water and sewer service to adding electrical service. *NWPPA*

Utilities Announce Elections

On April 22, Columbia REA (Walla Walla, Wash.) announced the results of its 2019 board elections. The newly elected board members are **Patrick Dennis**, **Jay DeWitt**, and **Dennis Munden**. In addition, new officers of the board were appointed following the announcement of the election results. The new board officers are President **Greg Knowles**, Vice President **Neil Carpenter**, and Secretary/Treasurer **Doug Logan**. Along with these six directors, **Vic Parks**, **Glen Shipley**, and **Katie Woolridge** also serve on the 2019 Columbia REA Board of Directors.



Patrick Dennis



Jay DeWitt



Dennis Munden

Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) members elected three at-large board seats in the 2019 MEA election. Members voted online, by mail, or at the annual membership meeting, which was held on April 23 at the Curtis D. Menard Center in Wasilla. The winning elected directors (**Peter Burchell**, **Kit Jones**, and **Janet Kincaid**) were all incumbents and will retain their seats on the MEA Board of Directors.



Jeff Anderson

At Salem Electric's Annual Membership Meeting held on May 7, **Jerry Berger** was reelected to a three-year term, and **Jan Barga** was elected to her first term. At the director's Organizational Meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for 2019-2020: **Jeff Anderson**, president; **Dave Bauer**, vice president; and **Joe Van Meter**, secretary treasurer. Other members of the board are **Alicia Bonesteele** and **Cindy Condon**. During the previous month, the Salem Electric Board of Directors recognized retiring director **Paul Ennor**. *NWPPA*



Paul Ennor

AMP Approves New Solar Compensation Rates

At its April 15 meeting, the city of Alameda's Public Utilities Board (Calif.) approved updated compensation rates for customers with solar who are served under the utility's eligible renewable generation (ERG) and net energy metering (NEM) plans. The new compensation rates will go into effect on July 1, 2019.

The new rate for excess generation under the ERG plan will be \$0.07096 per kilowatt-hour beginning on July 1, up from the current rate of \$0.06961 per kWh. AMP offers the ERG plan for solar customers who interconnected to the electric grid on or after August 1, 2017.

The NEM rate will increase from \$0.04869 per kWh to \$0.05429 per kWh on July 1. Solar customers who enrolled in AMP's NEM plan before it closed to new customers in August 2017 will stay in the plan for 20 years after their interconnect date. *NWPPA*

Columbia Begins 24th Refueling

After a historical year producing more carbon-free, nuclear energy than ever before, Columbia Generating Station disconnected from the Northwest power grid on May 11 to begin its 24th refueling. Columbia, which is owned and operated by Energy Northwest, is scheduled to be offline for no more than 40 days. Refueling is an opportunity to add fresh nuclear fuel to Columbia's reactor core, as well as perform maintenance projects that can best be accomplished only when the reactor is offline.

"During our refueling, we'll complete work activities to help ensure Columbia continues to operate reliably, 24/7, producing carbon-free power for the region," said **Grover Hettel**, Energy Northwest chief nuclear officer.

Energy Northwest and the Bonneville Power Administration time the plant's biennial refueling to coincide with spring snow melt and runoff that maximizes power output from the region's hydroelectric dams and minimizes the impact of taking the nuclear station offline. Nuclear and hydro are the region's only fulltime clean energy resources.

During refueling work, crews will replace 260 of the 764 nuclear fuel assemblies in Columbia's reactor core. Every two years, fuel that has been in the reactor core for six years, approximately a third of the assemblies, is removed and placed in a used fuel pool for dry-cask storage at a later date. **NWPPA**



SnoPUD Community Solar Launch a Success

Snohomish PUD (Everett, Wash.) started taking reservations on Monday, April 22, at 8 a.m. Within 24 hours, they had more than 283 customers reserve 5,167 solar energy units, which are one-fifth of a solar panel and cost \$120. Fourteen PUD customers have requested the maximum number of units (130/26 panels) and the average reservation is for 18 solar energy units, or about four solar panels. Snohomish PUD had 24 employees and commissioners reserve spots in the program.

The PUD is setting aside 10% of the solar energy units for income-qualified customers, which means there are approximately 2,100 solar energy units left to be reserved. The PUD anticipated those would be sold last week as well.

The PUD will give customers an energy credit of \$0.06/kWh, which is fixed for the 20-year period. Payback is estimated to be approximately eight years.

The 500-kilowatt solar array is located in Arlington, Wash., on the site of the PUD's future microgrid and local office. **NWPPA**

We Remember: Clay Smith

Northern Wasco PUD Director Clay Smith passed away on May 8 after suffering a heart attack while on the race-track in Washington a few days earlier. He was 72 years old.



A graduate of The Dalles High School, Smith had served as a director for the PUD from 2003 to the present. He was a staunch supporter of the tradition of public power and the mission of the Northern Wasco County PUD. He was an Energy Northwest Participant Review Board member and participated in many other energy professional groups, including having been an NWPPA Board trustee from 2015 to 2018.

Smith was a partner in Gorge Wind Electric in Mosier and had been working at the local Dodge dealership in The Dalles.

An organ donor, his generosity will help cancer patients, burn victims, and two people be able to see. **NWPPA**

EWEB Opens Second Water Station

The Eugene Water & Electric Board (Ore.), in partnership with Eugene School District 4J, held a grand opening for a new microgrid-powered emergency water station in the River Road area on May 11.

The station, at Howard Elementary School, includes a newly installed well, pumping station, emergency water distribution equipment, and a 1-megawatt battery energy storage system powered by a large photovoltaic array.

Howard marks the second emergency water station EWEB has established as part of its Resiliency Initiative. The first station, at Prairie Mountain School in the Bethel area, went online in October 2018. EWEB plans at least three more stations in other areas of Eugene over the next few years.

Each site will be built to provide water from a new or existing well, or a portable water treatment system, and include a source of standby power such as a generator in case the electric distribution system is compromised.

The battery storage system at Howard Elementary is partially funded through a \$295,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity and the Oregon Department of Energy. **NWPPA**

NuScale, DHIC Announce Strategic Cooperation

NuScale Power LLC and Doosan Heavy Industries and Construction Co., Ltd. announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for strategic cooperation to support deployment of the NuScale Power Module™ (NPM) worldwide. The relationship includes DHIC, a member of the Doosan Group, and potential Korean financial investors, which, commensurate to final due diligence, plan to make a cash equity investment in NuScale.

DHIC is expected to bring its expertise in nuclear pressure vessel manufacturing and will join the larger U.S.-led manufacturing team to build NuScale's groundbreaking NPM, America's first small modular reactor.

Under the terms of the MOU, DHIC is expected to build a portion of the most critical and complex NPM sub assemblies for the plant under development for Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, which is expected to begin operation in 2026. The new international relationship with DHIC will further build NuScale's U.S.-centered supply chain and accelerate NuScale's ability to deliver its technology quickly to future customers around the world.

NuScale's technology is the world's first and only SMR to undergo design certification review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. For more information, visit www.nuscalepower.com. **NWPPA**

EES Hires Kimberly Gentle

With more than 20 years of experience in wholesale and retail power contracts, origination, and risk management activities for electric utilities and power brokers, **Kimberly Gentle** has joined the EES team as a sales associate. Her knowledge of wholesale energy markets, contract design, and risk management strategies strengthen the EES team and clientele. The foundation of her experience is contracts and risk management with a specialty of optimizing value through policy and contract design.

Gentle has consistently identified cost-saving measures throughout her career and has optimized renewables, natural gas, power, and transmission portfolios. She has worked as a senior utility executive and has developed budgets, staffing plans, business strategies, and hedging and risk policies. Gentle has been an industry leader in distributed generation, renewable energy strategy, block chain, and cryptocurrency. She has negotiated retail and wholesale energy supply contracts in multiple energy commodities and has mitigated losses due to physical and financial contractual default.

EES is a multidisciplinary professional engineering and management consulting firm that provides a broad array of services to clients. For more information, visit www.eesconsulting.com. **NWPPA**



OSI Inaugurates Center in India

Open Systems International, Inc. is pleased to announce the inauguration of its Global Engineering Center in Bangalore, India, to help with implementation and deployment of OSI projects in India, Asia, and the Middle East. This marks another major milestone in the company's steady international expansion.

OSI strongly believes in intense customer focus, pragmatism, innovation, commitment, motivation, and excellence. Designed to facilitate honest and enduring partnerships with OSI customers, the GEC will build upon the company's core values to support growth of OSI's international business while freeing U.S. resources to concentrate primarily on North America-, Europe-, and Australia/New Zealand-based projects.

"We are very excited about the expansion of our operations in India to achieve a true 'GLOCAL' (Global Technology and Local Engineering and Implementation) organization," said **Bharath Kumar**, managing director of OSI. "We believe utilities globally are facing the same challenges as our clients in North America, so we are pleased to be able to deliver our superior technology and services while being closer to our end customers."

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

OMICRON Introduces the MONTESTO 200

OMICRON's MONTESTO 200 combines on-line partial discharge (PD) measurement and temporary on-line PD monitoring functions into one portable system. The IP65-rated MONTESTO 200 can be used both indoors and outdoors for insulation condition assessments on various medium-voltage and high-voltage electrical assets under load, including motors and generators, power transformers, and power cables. Partial discharge activity is a reliable indicator of insulation condition, as it is often a sign of insulation defects that can potentially cause failure in electrical assets.

The MONTESTO 200 is designed for use with a variety of PD measurement sensors from OMICRON and other suppliers, including coupling capacitors for rotating machines, bushing tap sensors, and UHF drain-valve sensors for power transformers, and high-frequency current transformers (HFCTs) for power cables. These PD measurement sensors can be permanently installed and connected to MONTESTO 200 via OMICRON's Terminal Box, which is also permanently installed at the asset. This enables safe and convenient plug-and-play connections while the asset is online to avoid unnecessary downtime during setup.

OMICRON is an international company serving the electrical power industry with innovative testing and diagnostic solutions. For more information, visit www.omicronenergy.com/montesto200. **NWPPA**



Ruralite Services Morphs to Pioneer Utility Resources

Ruralite Services, Inc., the Oregon-based company that provides communications and agency services to more than 100 consumer-owned utilities, is undergoing a name change.



The company, which provides a wide array of additional services to utilities and utility-related companies through three subsidiaries, will now be Pioneer Utility Resources. The name change was overwhelmingly approved by the members of the cooperative at the company's May 14 annual meeting in Portland. It had previously been endorsed by the organization's board of directors. It will be phased in over the next few months.

The name of *Ruralite* magazine, one of the company's flagship offerings, will remain unchanged. *Ruralite* magazine is distributed to its consumers by 47 cooperatives, municipal utilities, and public utility districts in Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Pioneer CEO **Michael Shepard** said the company's new name "captures both its long and rich history in the region, but also reflects our goal of blazing new trails with our utility partners across the United States. It also eliminates the perception that we only operate in rural communities."

Pioneer is a not-for-profit cooperative owned by the utilities and other organizations that use its services. More information can be found at PioneerUtilityResources.com. **NWPPA**

NISC Acquires Affinegy

To offer National Information Solutions Cooperative's members enhanced broadband solutions, NISC, a leading provider of software solutions to utility and telecommunication companies, has acquired Affinegy.



Based in Austin, Texas, Affinegy provides cloud-based, service enablement software and connected device management for broadband service providers. Affinegy's secure and scalable solution provides auto configuration server management for customer-premises equipment and managed WiFi orchestration for any TR-069 enabled CPE.

With this acquisition, NISC launched the NISC User Services System, leveraging the Affinegy product as part of its overall solutions portfolio. The solution can be operated independently, or it can be integrated with NISC's customer care and billing solutions along with NISC's SmartHub web and mobile tools for payment processing and order management.

NISC is an information technology organization that develops, implements, and supports software and hardware solutions for its members. Additional information about NISC can be found at www.nisc.coop. For more information about the NISC User Services System solution or to request a demonstration, please contact NISC at (866) 999-6472 or at sales@nisc.coop. **NWPPA**

HDR Acquires Calthorpe Associates

HDR is expanding its multidisciplinary team of urban and regional planners by acquiring Calthorpe Associates, based in Berkeley, Calif. Going forward, the firm will do business as HDR|Calthorpe.

Calthorpe Associates is internationally recognized for innovative leadership in regional planning, urban design, and transit-oriented development. Since 1983, the company has assisted public- and private-sector clients in shaping livable communities. The firm is an international leader in smart growth and a founding partner in the Congress for the New Urbanism. The combined relationship with HDR will benefit communities with groundbreaking urban growth in livable, sustainable, and low-carbon solutions.

"Calthorpe Associates brings years of inventive and transformative urban design experience that will enhance the services we offer our clients across the globe," said HDR Chairman and CEO **Eric Keen**. "We see tremendous opportunity with our clients, who rely on our growing body of expertise to improve the way people live, work, and play in our changing urban environments."

For more than a century, HDR has partnered with clients to shape communities and push the boundaries of what's possible. For more information, visit www.hdrinc.com. **NWPPA**

Meguire Whitney Names Newest Principal

Ryan Serote has joined Meguire Whitney as its newest principal.

Serote has more than 20 years of experience in state and federal government affairs, with a focus on natural resources, energy, and water advocacy on behalf of public power utilities. Prior to joining Meguire Whitney, he was the senior manager of federal affairs in the Washington, D.C., office of Salt River Project, a not-for-profit water and power utility based in Phoenix, Ariz. Prior to that he handled the natural resources, public lands, and hydropower portfolio on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's lobbying team.

Serote had come to NRECA after a 15-year career in government service. He served as the director of federal relations to Arizona Governor **Jan Brewer**, heading up her Washington, D.C., office from 2009 until the end of the governor's term in January 2015. Prior to that, he was a White House appointee to the Department of the Interior, first in the capacity of chief of Congressional affairs and later as deputy commissioner for external and intergovernmental affairs at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation from 2007-2008.

Meguire Whitney helps community-focused utilities navigate Washington, D.C., through relationships, analysis, counsel, and communication. For more information, visit meguirewhitney.org. **NWPPA**



NWPPA'S 2019 D.C. RALLY A SUCCESS

Policymaking continues despite political distractions

By Nicole Case



Ten days before the start of NWPPA's D.C. rally, the redacted Mueller report on the Trump presidential campaign's dealings with Russia was released and dominated all news outlets. In the meantime, it seemed as if a new candidate for the Democratic party's presidential nomination was announced weekly, further distracting the public and policy makers. As NWPPA staff and members prepared to travel to D.C. with a message that urged support for the reliability, security, and low-cost nature of consumer-based utility electric service, we wondered how our message would be received. We asked ourselves whether we would be able to convey our important points through the noise and ongoing partisan battles between the president, his party, the press, and Democrats in Congress.

In order to increase our chances of success, NWPPA refined its message to three top issues:

1. Support for legislation to vacate the Federal Communication Commission's order regulating public power pole attachments on government-owned rights of way;
2. Legislation to further reform hydropower licensing and to recognize hydropower as a renewable resource; and

3. Adequate funding and programmatic action, including vegetation management on utility rights of way, to reduce wildfire risk.

Armed with these and other issues, such as support for tax-exempt municipal bonds, Rural Utility Service programs, power marketing administrations, and the FERC/NERC-led cyber and physical security process, 23 NWPPA member representatives and staff headed to Capitol Hill and a few administration offices. Thankfully we discovered that policy making is still occurring. Despite the distractions (for example, Attorney General William Barr's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Mueller report was televised live in every office we visited), the U.S. Congress was making progress on several issues. While there may not have been many visible votes on the floor of each chamber, committee hearings were abundant and NWPPA's Congressional delegation was eager to hear our message.

Significant progress was made on our issues during the rally. We learned that the House and Senate Energy committees have committed to continue working on hydropower licensing reform. This commitment was made last Congress when leaders of both committees worked in conference on the Water Resources Development Act

(an act to authorize action by the Army Corps of Engineers) to include piecemeal hydropower provisions, including an NWPPA priority of providing credit to hydropower operators for early action. NWPPA strongly supported this commitment and pledged to work with our delegation to address hydropower licensing reform.

NWPPA's delegation in Congress understands our concerns with the FCC's overreach in regulating consumer-based utility pole attachments. Section 224 of the Communications Act provides for local control of pole attachments, but the FCC has ignored this exemption by using Section 253 of the Communications Act that addresses barriers to deployment of broadband technologies to regulate local government rights of way. Through this section of the Communications Act, the FCC is regulating the manner and price of pole attachments on consumer-based utility poles on local government rights of way.

NWPPA members conveyed our support for new broadband technologies, particularly in rural areas, but also conveyed our strong opposition to the FCC's actions as threatening the reliability and safety of our electric systems. We also expressed opposition to requiring electric customers to shoulder the cost of installing new broadband technologies. We sought support for HR 530

(legislation introduced by Anna Eshoo, a long-time California representative) that would vacate the FCC's order applicable to consumer-based utilities. Many NWPPA delegation members co-sponsored HR 530 and others agreed with our suggestion to consider signing a letter to the FCC conveying concerns with the order.

Most members of Congress representing areas served by NWPPA members have made the prevention of wildfires a priority. Work continues on a disaster supplemental appropriations bill and annual appropriations bills. We found strong support for additional funding to foot the bill in 2019 for wildfire suppression. Also, the delegation supports quick implementation of vegetation management legislation passed in 2018 that would make permitting of vegetation management in or near utility rights of way consistent and timely.

Our meetings with federal land management agencies, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, also yielded results. Both agencies

confirmed that work is being done to incorporate the vegetation management legislation into programmatic efforts to prevent wildfires by reducing hazard trees near utility rights of way. NWPPA urged quick action and coordination among the agencies, and we pledged to follow this issue closely and keep our delegation informed of the land management agencies' progress.

NWPPA's other issues also resonated with our delegation. These issues (municipal bonds, RUS, PMAs, and cybersecurity) are important issues for maintaining reliable, secure, and low-cost service. NWPPA members received pledges of support from key delegation members on these issues and requests to be kept informed as these issues progress.

NWPPA President Scott Egbert of Wells Rural Electric Company in Nevada explained how the D.C. Rally is much more effective than an email or phone call. At NWPPA's annual meeting, Egbert said, "The value of the D.C. Rally lies in the personal contact—the face-to-face

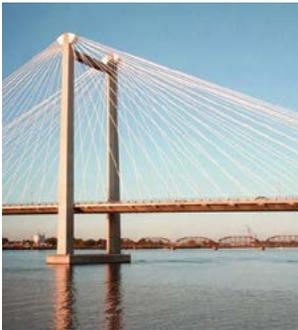
meetings with key policy makers. Congressional staff have said that they receive countless numbers of emails and letters, but nothing makes more of an impact than meeting with your members of Congress in person."

NWPPA's D.C. Rally is the cornerstone of the association's legislative and regulatory program. Each year, 15-20 member representatives join NWPPA staff and consultants in Washington, D.C., to carry a message unique to consumer-based utilities in the greater Northwest. Throughout the year, NWPPA will build upon the connections made while in D.C. to further its position on policy issues as the need arises.

If you would like to learn more about the D.C. Rally or how to become involved in NWPPA's legislative and regulatory program, contact Scott Corwin, NWPPA's executive director, at scottc@nwppa.org. **NWPPA**

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

HYDRO • NUCLEAR • WIND • SOLAR



Tri-Cities: A CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY



ENERGY NORTHWEST



Jefferson County PUD Undergrounds Power to Old Port Townsend

By Will O'Donnell

Port Townsend, Wash., may or may not have ghosts, but it definitely has tunnels. Tunnels that run under the downtown: remnants (or ghosts) of an older part of town that once existed below the surface of the many well-preserved historic Victorian buildings above. This fall, Jefferson County PUD will be stringing fiber-optic cable in those tunnels as part of the last phase of an overhead-to-underground service conversion that the PUD began in 2018 in partnership with the City of Port Townsend.

Located on the northeastern-most tip of the northwestern-most landmass in the continental U.S.—the Olympic Peninsula, home of Olympic National Park—Port Townsend was and is a gateway to the calmer waters of Puget Sound for boats coming in from the Pacific. Like Seattle, Port Townsend was founded in the 1850s, and its original downtown was built out of wood along boardwalks at beach level.

By the 1880s, lumber barons and real estate speculators had moved in and were building a new downtown on top of the filled-in remnants of the old, this time out of red brick and stone with elaborate cornices and decorative spires. They were in a race against Seattle, Tacoma, and others to establish their town as the Key City, the primary protected deep-water port of the Puget Sound region.

Sailors, swindlers, Chinese immigrants, and pioneers swelled Port Townsend's population to almost 10,000. By the mid-1890s, however, when it was clear that the long-hoped-for rail connection to Tacoma wasn't coming, the boom became a bust. As the new century dawned, Seattle had become the Puget Sound's primary port, and Port Townsend's population rapidly fell by nearly half.

It's only been in the last few decades that Port Townsend's population has returned to 1880s levels; but being partly inhabited for more than a century also helped preserve it. No second wave of development ever arrived, and because of that, visitors to Port Townsend's Water Street can still experience much of what the city was like when it was originally built. Depending on the day, you may even see people in full Victorian dress riding Victorian large-front-wheeled bicycles down the street.



In 2016, Water Street, Port Townsend’s main promenade, was showing its age. City of Port Townsend staff began notifying residents and business owners that the many layers of asphalt and cobble sandwiched together on Water Street (above) were crumbling. And the water main buried in the middle of it wasn’t fairsing much better. Both would need to be replaced. According to City Engineer Dave Peterson, his team saw the opportunity afforded by removing the roadway to bring all of the utility infrastructure along the affected section of Water Street up to modern standards, and to put it underground.

Water and sewer were the City’s domain. Power, and to a lesser extent telecom infrastructure, was under the purview of Jefferson County PUD. The overhead service along Water Street had been a discussion point between the PUD and the City since 2013. The PUD wanted the city to remove the mature trees growing into the power lines. According to Peterson, the City wanted the PUD to remove the power lines running across the historic facades.

“For one, aesthetically speaking, it just looks better to have the power underground in the Historic District. Two is safety. Having live, three-phase service running in front of these old buildings makes it difficult for the fire department to respond, and it also makes it almost impossible for the building owners to do routine maintenance and things like painting,” said Peterson.

Despite the fact that the PUD had only been in the power business for a few years, and had plenty on its plate, Kevin Streett, then the electrical superintendent and now general manager, was up for the challenge of converting electrical and

communications service from overhead to underground in the historic district.

Up for the challenge may be putting it mildly for Streett.

“It was just a cool project, really,” he said. “Working with the historical society, crawling through these old tunnels and underneath 150-year-old buildings, coring through seawalls that weren’t even on anybody’s drawings. Trying to lay it all out, it’s just been very interesting.”

According to Staking Engineer Russell Miller, who has spent many of his working days downtown coordinating with local businesses and construction contractors for the last year and a half, undergrounding the power downtown has been a “passion project” for Streett. “He loves it,” said Miller. “All the little details that would drive anyone else crazy, that’s what he lives for.”

Which isn’t surprising, given that Streett is the son of a nuclear engineer, and started his electrical career in his late teens working as a lineman during summers off from college. Streett played football for Boise State. He was a linebacker and looks it to this day—tall and broad, with tombstone hands and large, ever-present brown leather boots. After college, Streett travelled the world working on line crews in places like Kodiak, Alaska, and Saudi Arabia. He then spent more than 20 years as an operations manager of consumer-owned utilities, first at Overton Power District in Nevada, and then Navopache Electrical Co-op in Arizona.

Despite his deep roots in the dry inland West, Streett was enticed to make the journey over to the wet side when he saw an advertisement looking for help building a new electrical

continued



utility. The citizens of Jefferson County had voted in 2008 to authorize their local PUD to pursue the acquisition of its electrical grid from Puget Sound Energy. After years of negotiations, the two utilities settled on a purchase price and a transition date: April 2013. Streett was hired in November 2012. He had less than six months to hire and outfit a crew, order the trucks, and essentially build the division from scratch.

Or almost from scratch. As long-serving former commissioner Wayne King was fond of saying, though the PUD had purchased PSE's former service building, nothing was left inside of it, "not even a screwdriver, or a single spool of wire."

But the size of the challenge was exactly what drew Streett to the job. "I was intrigued," he said. "I'd seen utilities build out into a new area, or takeover part of someone else's area, but to do it from scratch, without even a single truck? It hadn't been done in a long time."

In fact, in Washington state, a public utility had not acquired service from an investor-owned utility in over 60 years. It was a historic achievement. Prior to hiring Streett, Jefferson County PUD had only managed water and sewer service for less than 5,000 customers with just eight employees and a budget of less than \$2 million.

The transition, as Streett is the first to admit, didn't go easily. Streett described his crew's response to the first big storm as being "like the Keystone Kops." The struggling electrical division's start-up foibles brought attention from Seattle news crews, problems with its billing systems resulted in PUD staff members being yelled at in grocery stores, and the District has gone through more CFOs than drummers in Spinal Tap.

A conservative think tank even used Jefferson County PUD as a case study for the dangers of government going into the power business. But Streett and Jefferson PUD persisted, and though the CFO seat is open yet again, recent audits have been clean, cash flow is positive, power is reliable, and rates have been stable. The district now provides power to over 19,000 customers and has installed a 45-mile-long fiber-optic network. As a result of taking the power system public, more than 40 new positions have been added to the PUD's payroll, and millions more have been invested in grid modernization and improvements.

One of those improvements is the undergrounding of the electric service in downtown Port Townsend. Which, like starting an electrical utility from scratch, has not been without its challenges. A buried steel pipe brought Seattle's tunnel boring project to a standstill. A piece of buried steel conduit delayed underground service to Port Townsend's local Windermere Real Estate office for months. According to Special Projects Coordinator Scott Bancroft, a bit of trenching work took 160 days longer than scheduled due to permitting delays; the job itself required less than four.

Still, Streett says the job has gone mostly as planned and that the close working relationship he developed with City staff largely spared the PUD many of the permitting hassles it might have otherwise faced. "Much of the time, the city itself pulled the permit and we were able to jump in with them. There was a lot done by each party to make this project work as well as it has."

Peterson agrees. "It's been a great relationship for the City working with the PUD," he said. "And it's been good for the PUD to interact more with our businesses and residents. I know a lot of folks were surprised to see just how much conduit it takes to make all the underground connections."

The first phase of work along Water Street began in January 2018 with the removal of the roadway and the laying of conduit; it concluded in late June of the same year. In October 2018, PUD contract crews began the conversion process for businesses along Water Street, one section at a time, beginning at the State Ferry Terminal between Port Townsend and Coupeville on Whidbey Island. The ferry system's three-phase service was the first section to go underground, with the waterfront strip mall adjoining it to the east next. Contractors installed new pad-mounted transformers and ran the new service through the conduit before disconnecting the above overhead service and removing the old overhead transformers.

Work continued section by section through May 2019. As they did in 2018, the PUD and its contract crews suspended work downtown during the summer months. Port Townsend is a popular tourist destination and host to many summertime festivals. When work resumes in October 2019, the last section of service between Tyler and Taylor along Water Street will be

pushed through conduit and connected to customer meters and the new transformers set behind the buildings.

Of course, the question all the residents and business owners downtown want an answer to is “When are the poles coming down?” According to PUD Engineering Supervisor Jimmy Scarborough, the power poles and remaining deenergized wires should come down in early 2020. Though the PUD will have all of its working assets removed in October 2019, the poles still host communications cables for CenturyLink and Wave Broadband, as well as city streetlights. Wave and CenturyLink have been notified of the impending pole removal; the streetlights will be ordered this summer and installed in the fall.

When the PUD’s power poles finally come down along Water Street in early 2020, Financial Services Manager Mike Bailey pegs the total cost to the PUD to be around \$1.1 million. That’s assuming the City and Streett don’t begin plotting the undergrounding of yet another section of the town’s electrical service, as has happened at least twice already, though farther away from the water.

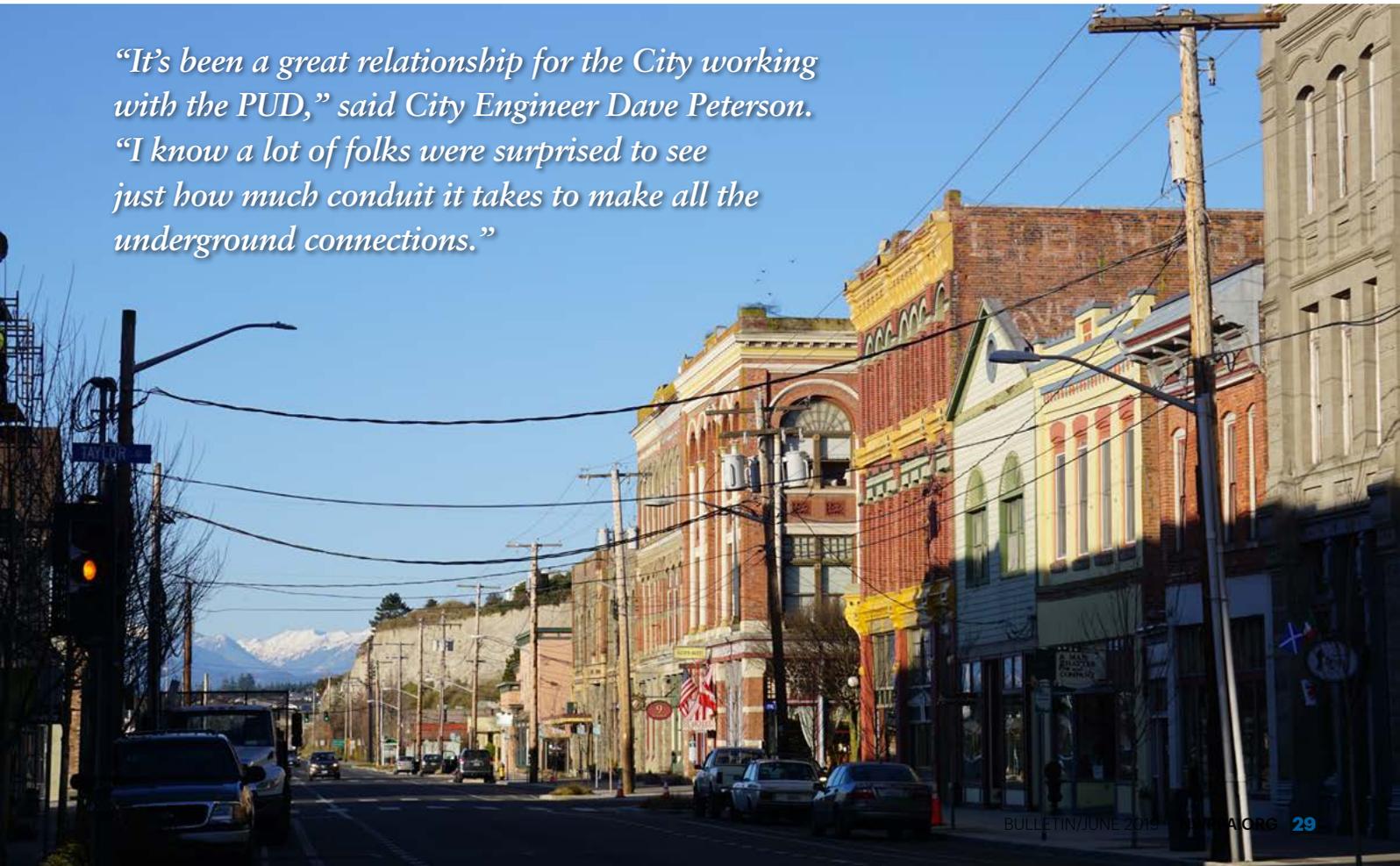
For Streett and Peterson, when a partnership is this strong, it’s just made sense to keep digging. **NWPPA**

Will O’Donnell is the communications manager at Jefferson County PUD. He can be contacted at (206) 265-1820 or wodonnell@jeffpud.org.

General Manager Kevin Streett looks at the entrance to one of the downtown tunnels.



“It’s been a great relationship for the City working with the PUD,” said City Engineer Dave Peterson. “I know a lot of folks were surprised to see just how much conduit it takes to make all the underground connections.”





JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

- Job Opportunities ads are also accepted from non-members. Ads are \$350 per listing for a 30-day period.
- For an additional \$50 per 30 days, your job listing will be pinned to the top of the job listings page on the website and highlighted in the magazine.
- *Copy must be received before the 25th of the month prior to the month of publication* (for example, February 25 for March issue).
- The *Bulletin* is mailed by the 15th of each month.
- Complete the online Job Opportunities ad placement form at www.nwppa.org.
- NWPPA reserves the right to edit all listings in order to fit size requirements in the publication.

POSITION: [Electrical Maintenance Technician](#)
COMPANY: PUD No. 2 of Pacific County (Long Beach, Wash.)
SALARY: \$48.22 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 23, 2019
TO APPLY: Email jasond@pacificpud.org.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.)
SALARY: \$46.52 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.bentonpud.org/Careers.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman or Linewoman](#)
COMPANY: Coos-Curry Electric Co-op (Multiple locations)
SALARY: Per contract
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit <http://ccec.coop/content/career-opportunities>.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: PUD No. 2 of Pacific County (Long Beach, Wash.)
SALARY: \$47.31 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 10, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.pacificpud.org/employment.html.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (San Juan Islands, Wash.)
SALARY: \$48.64 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: July 10, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.opalco.com/careers.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman or Last Step Apprentice Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc. (Roseburg, Ore.)
SALARY: Per union contract
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 20, 2019
TO APPLY: Email applications@dec.coop.

POSITION: [Substation Technician](#)
COMPANY: Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (Baker City, Ore.)
SALARY: \$45.80 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 29, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.otecc.com/careers.

POSITION: [Meterman - Journeyman](#)
COMPANY: Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.)
SALARY: \$46.52 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 29, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.bentonpud.org/Careers.

POSITION: [Controller](#)
COMPANY: Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska)
SALARY: \$138,021 midpoint
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 16, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.mea.coop/about-mea/job-opportunities/.

POSITION: [Journeyman Lineman](#)
COMPANY: Canby Utility (Canby, Ore.)
SALARY: \$46.04 per hour (\$47.42 effective 7/1/19)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: August 16, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.canbyutility.org/about/jobs.

POSITION: [Associate Nuclear Security Technician R-19-1284](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Rainier, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R-19-1284.

POSITION: [Associate Nuclear Security Technician R-19-1285](#)
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Rainier, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R-19-1285.

POSITION: Associate Nuclear Security Technician R-19-1283
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Rainier, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R-19-1283.

POSITION: Associate Nuclear Security Technician R-19-1282
COMPANY: Portland General Electric (Rainier, Ore.)
SALARY: DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=R-19-1282.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman
COMPANY: Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (Burns, Ore.)
SALARY: \$45.80 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 20, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.otec.coop/careers.

POSITION: Operations Supervisor
COMPANY: Columbia River PUD (Deer Island, Wash.)
SALARY: \$97,011 - \$138,299 per year DOE
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.crpud.net/my-pud/jobs/.

POSITION: Contract Specialist
COMPANY: Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)
SALARY: \$60,720 to \$86,900 (DOQ)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.chelanpud.org/about-us/careers.

POSITION: Civil Engineer
COMPANY: Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)
SALARY: \$90,080 - \$135,900 per year (DOQ)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.chelanpud.org/about-us/careers.

POSITION: HR Process Administrator
COMPANY: Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)
SALARY: \$24.97-\$29.37 per hour (DOQ)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.chelanpud.org/about-us/careers.

POSITION: Electrical Engineering Technician (Power House)
COMPANY: City of Unalaska (Unalaska, Alaska)
SALARY: \$42.52-\$44.24 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 17, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.ci.unalaska.ak.us.

POSITION: Temporary Journeyman Lineman
COMPANY: Nespelem Valley Electric Co-op, Inc. (Nespelem, Wash.)
SALARY: As per CBA
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.nvec.org.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman
COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD No. 1 (Port Townsend, Wash.)
SALARY: \$47.79 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.jeffpud.org/employment/.

POSITION: GIS Specialist
COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD No. 1 (Port Townsend, Wash.)
SALARY: \$66,000 to \$86,000 per year (DOQ)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.jeffpud.org/employment.

POSITION: Water Operations Superintendent
COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD No. 1 (Port Townsend, Wash.)
SALARY: \$110,864 - \$131,638 per year (DOQ)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.jeffpud.org/employment.

POSITION: Human Resources Manager
COMPANY: Jefferson County PUD No. 1 (Port Townsend, Wash.)
SALARY: TBD
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 30, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.jeffpud.org/employment.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman
COMPANY: McMinnville Water and Light (McMinnville, Ore.)
SALARY: \$47.40 per hour
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.mc-power.com/career/.

POSITION: Journeyman Lineman
COMPANY: Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Missoula, Mont.)
SALARY: \$87,963 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 26, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit <https://missoulaelectric.com/job/journeyman-lineman/>.

POSITION: Engineer, Professional Engineer, Principal Engineer—
System Planning
COMPANY: Snohomish PUD (Everett, Wash.)
SALARY: \$82,000 - \$142,000 annually
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 18, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.snopud.com.

POSITION: Safety Manager
COMPANY: Inland Power & Light (Spokane, Wash.)
SALARY: \$87,473 - \$109,341 per year
DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 27, 2019
TO APPLY: Visit www.inlandpower.com/careers.

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ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

Energy Northwest	25
Intermatic.....	Back cover
KVA Electric, Inc.	19
National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC)	8
VOLTA Tree	7
Washington State University	15

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