

Northwest Public Power Association  
**BULLETIN**

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS  
**NWPPA**  
1940-2015  
Northwest Public Power Association  
December 2015  
Volume 69, Number 12

**Ravalli Electric Cooperative teams up  
with the Trapper Creek Job Corp  
for some impressive energy savings**

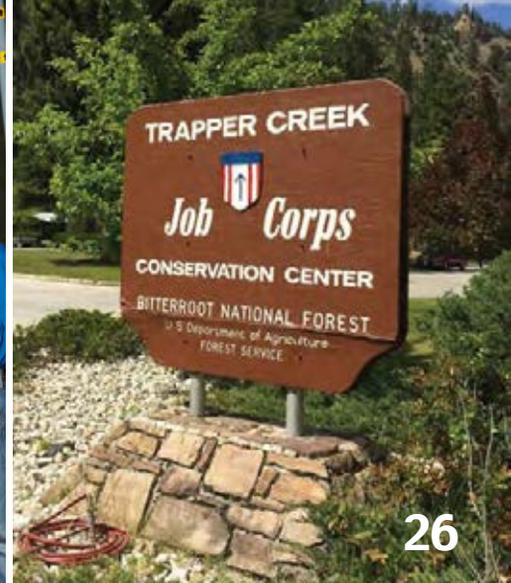




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**On the cover:** Small, rural Ravalli Electric Cooperative in Corvallis, Mont., successfully teamed up with the Trapper Creek Job Corp, a federal agency located near Darby, Mont., in the Bitterroot National Forest, to help the center become much more energy efficient and save money.

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*Celebrating our past with an eye on the future*



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# Alaskans gather for Electric Utility Conference and Trade Show in Anchorage

**E**lectric utility employees from across Alaska gathered at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage the week of October 26 for utility training, conference sessions, a trade show, and a tour of a landfill natural gas plant. The bi-annual Alaska Electric Utility Conference and Trade Show is co-hosted by NWPPA and APA (Alaska Power Association).

“As the 2015 conference chair, it was gratifying to observe a very positive and enthusiastic interaction between all the conference participants. It not only met my expectations but from the feedback received appeared to meet the vendors and attendees as well,” said Conference Chair Andy Gentry of Cordova Electric Association. “It helped reinforce that this conference is still one of the best training environments that Alaska utilities can provide their employees; well worth the investment!”

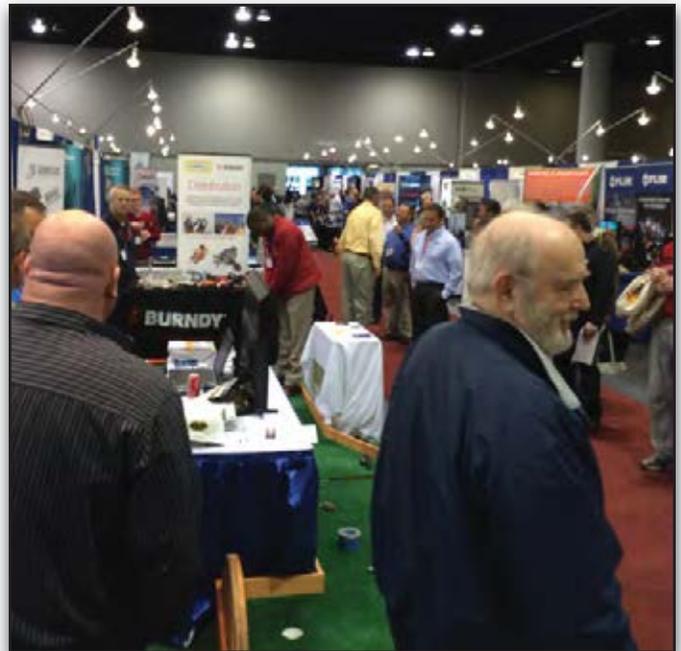
The event was attended by approximately 400 industry professionals and included four pre-conference classes held over two days; two days of speakers on a variety of technical topics; a trade show with electric industry vendors from across the country; and a tour of Anchorage Municipal Light & Power's and Doyon Utilities' landfill gas plant near Joint Base Elemendorf-Richardson. The two-day conference included over 21 speakers covering engineering, power supply, safety, environmental, and operations topics. Thursday morning's general session involved an Alaskan CEO panel answering questions about a variety of topics, including “What keeps you up at night as a CEO?”.

The conference theme this year was “Helping to Power those that Serve and Protect” reflecting the Alaskan utility commitment to those that provide essential services to our communities and nation. Highlighted during the conference was a slideshow of many utility employees that have served, and are still serving, in military and community service positions throughout the state.

The trade show at the Alaska Electric Utility Conference provided a unique opportunity for utility employees to visit 85 booths and learn more about the best practices, products, and services in the industry. Without having to travel to the lower 48 states, or to remote Alaskan locations, attendees and vendors met during the week in Anchorage to discuss everything from transmission and distribution transformers; line equipment and trade tools; generators and controls; safety equipment; software used in operations and planning; and much more.



*The CEO panel included (L-R) Trey Acteson of Southeast Alaska Power Agency, Clay Koplin of Cordova Electric, Brad Janorshcke of Homer Electric, and Brad Reeve of Kotzebue Electric.*



*Attendees had the good fortune of being able to visit 85 different booths on the trade show floor.*

The next NWPPA/APA Alaska Electric Utility Conference and Trade Show will be held in the fall of 2017 in Anchorage. If you are an Alaska utility employee interested in serving on the planning committee for the next conference, please email Scott Lowry at [slowry@nwppa.org](mailto:slowry@nwppa.org).

NWPPA

## Banner turnout at the 3 Cs Workshop

This year's 3 Cs Workshop in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 28-30, brought over 80 attendees together to learn about current issues and exchange ideas about what has worked at their utilities. Enthusiasm was high and attendees went away with renewed energy for their work.

"I learned a ton about what we can improve on at my utility," said Flathead Electric Cooperative Credit/Collections Supervisor Pam Wambach.

For managers and supervisors, there was a special pre-session class on October 27, *Managing in Changing Times*. Grant Axtell of Trajectory Consulting facilitated a day of instruction and hands-on exercises that helped managers and supervisors work effectively with the dynamics of a changing workforce. There was a special focus on the differences in generations and how their differing motivations impact their attitudes and behaviors in the workplace.

Presentations during the two-and-a-half-day workshop ranged from technical information about PCI compliance and AMI meters to discussions on generational diversity, privacy/confidentiality, emergency preparedness, and professionalism.

The *Straight Dope on Pot* presentation by Jeff Bauman of Cowlitz PUD especially drew a great deal of interest. Bauman gave an overview of marijuana-growing operations and shed light on an industry that is having major impacts on utilities, from the need for large power loads for grow lighting to huge payments in cash due to a lack of access to federally regulated financial institutions.

"Loved the presentation and it shed light on an industry I really never thought about. A business is a business, but the pot industry has a much bigger demand than I had imagined,"

said Flathead Electric Cooperative Member Services Supervisor Teresa Miller.

Mark Johnson, general manager of Flathead Electric, gave the group a look into the future. During his presentation, *The Game Changers: Preparing for Tomorrow's Utility*, he talked about the dramatic changes coming to utilities and how these would alter the way utilities will provide services to their customers.

Jennifer Webster of Business Strategies presented *Email and Documentation Essentials*. She covered proper email etiquette and helped the audience understand the importance of following clear email guidelines to be more effective with both internal and external customers. She provided helpful tips that could be taken back to share with other utility employees.

"It was great to get some guidelines," said Midstate Electric Cooperative Customer Service Supervisor Doug Buchanan. "We brought some very good tips back with us to our team."

In another session, *Here Comes the Judge!*, Webster talked about how easy it is to make judgments about people through their first impressions and how these quick judgments are often false. She reminded attendees to keep in the forefront that they have no idea what is really going on in individuals' lives; she stressed the importance of putting aside assumptions and treating everyone respectfully.

"Judging people has been around a long time by first impressions, so it is good to be reminded and keep it in the forefront that we have no idea what really is going on in individuals' lives," said Canby Utility Customer Service Supervisor Dee Anne Wunder. "Everyone deserves to be treated the same." NWPPA

## Welcome to Consumers Power Inc.



We are excited to announce that Consumers Power Inc. in Philomath, Ore., has rejoined the association after a long hiatus.

Consumers Power Inc. (CPI) is a privately owned nonprofit rural electric cooperative serving 22,000 members in Benton, Lincoln, Lane, Linn, Polk, and Marion Counties. CPI's service territory covers more than 3,500 square miles and is divided into nine zones containing approximately the same number of members in each.

President and CEO Roman Gillen heads the utility, which is governed by a nine-member board of directors, one from each zone, elected by the members to serve a three-year term. The cooperative has more than 3,000 miles of transmission and distribution line with approximately 6.7 customers per mile. As far as value-added services, CPI is an owner of Casco, which provides Peak Internet services, and CoEnergy Propane. NWPPA

# LERG members discuss, share best practices at annual meeting

Close to 40 industry leaders gathered to collaborate with NWPPA's Labor and Employee Relations Group (LERG) at its annual meeting held in Portland, Ore., October 14-16.

Some of the managers also attended a tour of the BPA headquarters where they learned about power scheduling, BPA's generating facilities, energy efficiency programs, and the availability of resources for member utilities in the BPA library.

To kick off the two-and-a-half-day meeting on the first day, *Job Descriptions: the Best-Kept Secret to Developing Employees* was presented by defense attorney Jennifer Bouman-Stegall.

This was followed by Kellis Borek's presentation with updates pertaining to wage, hot topics, and new exempt/ non-exempt rules. Borek is the vice president of labor and employment services at Archbright located in Seattle.

On the second day, *State of the Economy — Waiting for the Zeroes to Go* was presented by the principal of M & H Economic Consultants, John W. Mitchell.

One presentation that shined especially bright was *General Differences in the Workplace*, presented by Grant Axtell, president of Trajectory Consulting.

"I really enjoyed Grant Axtell's presentation about genera-

tional differences. It was a great reminder of why we are the way we are and to understand other generations that are entering our workforce," said Lewis County PUD HR Manager Lora Provolt. "Grant was a very entertaining and dynamic speaker."

Not only were these presentations great, but members said they loved to have several chances to discuss the topics with their peers. These discussions are very essential for collaborating and networking between peers.

"I think being able to share best practices and examples of policies and program implementation is the best resource that the conference has to offer," said Mason County PUD No. 1 Director of Employee & Public Relations Kristin Masteller.

Other sessions covered negotiating medical and pharmacy costs; techniques for managing utilization; an online demo of Milliman's Northwest benefits survey; and accommodations in the workplace.

Overall it was a successful meeting and we are excited for those that will attend Labor and Employee Relations Group meetings in the future. For more information about the group or how to join, contact Bonnie McCombs at [bonnie@nwppa.org](mailto:bonnie@nwppa.org).

NWPPA



## Balancing the New Energy Horizon

A diverse mix of energy generated at Energy Northwest provides enough reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power for more than one million homes.



[www.energy-northwest.com](http://www.energy-northwest.com)



# Time to submit nominations for 2016 board seats, awards, and resolutions

**A**s our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year comes to a close, it is again time to nominate fellow members for the NWPPA Board of Trustees, as well as submit nominations for the annual awards and resolutions. The following information summarizes the nomination forms that were mailed at the beginning of December:

## Call for 2016–2017 NWPPA Board nominations

NWPPA is currently seeking nominations for one vacant utility member seat on its board of trustees. The vacant position is for a general manager from a Washington PUD.

For those Washington PUD utility members interested in serving on the NWPPA Board of Trustees, please submit a letter identifying the nominee's desire to serve as well as some background information (bio with other community/industry service) to Terry LaLiberte, NWPPA Nominating Committee Chair, 9817 NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Vancouver, WA 98662. Board nominations may also be emailed to Anita Decker at [anita@nwppa.org](mailto:anita@nwppa.org). Nominations for board seats must be received by **February 1, 2016**.

## Call for 2016 award nominations

Please consider nominating individuals and/or organizations for the *Life Award*, *Paul J. Raver Community Service Award*, *John M. George Public Service Award*, *William "Bill"*

*McCrorie Distinguished Service Award*, and NWPPA's newest award, the *Homer T. Bone Award*.

All nominations received by **January 29, 2016**, will be reviewed and acted upon during the Awards Committee meeting in March. Awards will be presented at the May 2016 Annual Meeting.

## Call for 2016 resolutions

Please review NWPPA's current 2015 resolutions by viewing them on NWPPA's website under the Government Relations link. If you would like to submit any new draft resolutions or provide updates to the existing resolutions, please email your input to Nicole Case at [nicole@nwppa.org](mailto:nicole@nwppa.org) by **January 21, 2016**. The Government Relations Committee (GRC) will meet on March 10, 2016, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to discuss comments and submissions to the proposed slate of 2016 resolutions.

A final list of GRC-approved, proposed 2016 resolutions will be made available to the full membership following GRC consideration in March. The membership will vote on the proposed 2016 resolutions in May at NWPPA's Annual Membership Meeting in Tulalip, Wash.

If you have questions about any of the above categories or requirements, please contact NWPPA at (360) 254-0109 or [nwppa@nwppa.org](mailto:nwppa@nwppa.org). **NWPPA**

## NWPPA continues student internship program

**T**his fall, NWPPA has been enjoying its second opportunity to work with a high school intern, Ashlee Rogers. She is a senior at Heritage High School in Vancouver, Wash., and has been involved in volleyball, softball, choir, and advanced classes. As you can see she likes to be challenged and does so by keeping busy.



"I knew that I wanted more than just job experience; I wanted real training that I knew would benefit me in the future," said Rogers. "The options I have for a quality work environment are limited for someone my age. So I could tell NWPPA was a great choice for me."

NWPPA Executive Director Anita Decker first announced the internship opportunity at a B.O.W.s

(Brilliant Outstanding Women) meeting in June. She knew that the internship would be a great way for the younger generation to experience public power. Teah Wing, also from Heritage High School, was selected to be our summer intern and worked with the Communications Department. In September, B.O.W.s participants learned about the opportunity for a fall intern who would work with all three departments (training, administrative, and communications).

Even though the internship is unpaid, students still gain 0.25 credits when completing their 90 hours throughout the course of the internship, as well as on-the-job training in a local business, resumé building experience, and the chance to develop professional contacts.

"With this internship I am able to work in a real business environment that gives me training that attains more complexity," said Rogers. **NWPPA**

# A piece of NWPPA history: The training events boom

**F**or 2016, the Training Department plans to offer over 225 events; the department scheduled significantly less — about 120 events — only a decade ago. This training boom represents roughly a 200-percent growth in 10 years for the association! The NWPPA Training Department monitors workforce development trends so it can deliver the most current classes that our members need and want. As a result, NWPPA has added several new series to its annual roster of classes over just the last decade, in turn providing necessary learning tools for employees in the electric utility industry.

For example, in 2005, NWPPA debuted its new Utility Accounting Certificate Program. In 10 years, approximately 450 people have gone through the program.

The Training Department added another leadership certification program, Foreman Leadership Skills, to its arsenal in 2006. In 2010, NWPPA offered the series entirely in California for easier access for our members to the south; as a result, 14 more graduates — all from California — completed the series and earned their certification. Today, this program remains one of our most popular certifications.

In the spring of 2014, NWPPA graduated the first class of 14 utility employees to complete the inaugural five-part Pathways to Leadership Certification (now called Senior Leadership Skills). Senior Leadership Skills is a leadership development series for senior managers, managers, Front Line Leadership graduates, and newly appointed leaders. Because of the high level of praise for this series, Senior Leadership Skills continues today, into 2016, and beyond.

The last 12 months have also brought us our first Women in Public Power Workshop, first cybersecurity workshop, and first distributed generation workshop. We're always updating our curriculum; if you have any ideas for events, please don't hesitate to contact Arnie Winkler, director of education and workforce development, at [arnie@nwppa.org](mailto:arnie@nwppa.org). We're all excited to see what the next 75 years of training — and NWPPA — will look like! **NWPPA**

## Don't forget to find the one last time!

**I**n every 2015 issue of the *Bulletin*, we hid one diamond graphic (like this one ) somewhere in the magazine. For each issue, we selected a random person who emailed the correct page and location to the associate editor at [brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org). The winners were all notified by the end of the month and received a gift card from NWPPA. This month is the final contest, so we made it a bit easier to find for everyone. Good luck!

November's diamond was on page 3 on the rock above the first mule's rump.

Congratulations to November's winner: Martin Escalera from Douglas County PUD in East Wenatchee, Wash. **NWPPA**



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago — 1965

Operation BOLD (Blast Off Libby Dam) celebrated the start of construction on the Libby Dam (Mont.) ... Chelan PUD's *Power Patter* reported that 15 top jobs in the management staff will be open due to retirements, four by 1970 and 11 more by 1975 (Wash.) ... Robert P. Brush was named the new commercial manager for Cowlitz County PUD; he replaced Lacy Peoples, who retired (Wash.) ... Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative established a new all-electric commercial rate and initiated a new residential all-electric promotion plan on December 1 (Ore.) ... Carroll Northrup assumed the duties of manager of Franklin County PUD (Wash.).

### 25 years ago — 1990

Bradley S. Kunda was appointed the director of operations for Consumers Power, Inc., replacing Dean O. Johnson who retired in September (Ore.) ... Benton REA helped to land a 15-acre, \$22-million state-of-the-art Darigold milk processing plant in its service territory (Wash.) ... Matanuska Electric Association was granted a tariff revision by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission to add an "experimental water heating controlled service" to the co-op's wholesale power cost rate adjustment schedule ... Merger discussions between Tillamook PUD and Western Oregon Electric Cooperative were put on hold ... Douglas County PUD was exploring modular hydro-electric pump storage (Wash.).

### 5 years ago — 2010

Columbia Rural Electric Association was named the 2010 Business of the Year by the Dayton Chamber of Commerce (Wash.) ... Kootenai Electric Cooperative announced two new additions to staff: Chris Kastella as manager of member services and Terry Robinson as manager of finance and accounting (Idaho) ... Ground was broken for a 46-megawatt capacity new natural gas power plant being built by four Montana cooperatives: Fergus Electric, Mid-Yellowstone Electric, Tongue River Electric, and Beartooth Electric ... Columbia River PUD's 2009 report won top honors in the American Public Power Association's Annual Report Contest (Ore.). **NWPPA**

# January, February, and March 2016



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

### **NEW! ONLINE — SUCCESSION PLANNING WEBINAR**

Who Should Attend: General managers, human resource personnel, or anyone who needs to develop a succession plan.

**JANUARY 7, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

### **NEW! THE POWER OF COOPERATIVES**

Who Should Attend: Policy makers and general managers. For electric cooperatives to sustain their success, we need to rediscover our purpose. *The Power of Cooperatives* course is designed to gain a deep understanding of the cooperative difference and be able to communicate it effectively.

**JANUARY 11, 2016 — BOISE, IDAHO**

### **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.

**JANUARY 12, 2016 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### **PCB MANAGEMENT — FOUNDATIONAL & ADVANCED TRAINING**

Who Should Attend: All utility operations and technical personnel, as well as employees who are involved in managing, handling, and maintaining records and EPA reports for PCB items and PCB waste.

**JANUARY 13-14, 2016 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### **OPERATIONS MANAGER & LINE SUPERINTENDENT BOOTCAMP — SESSION 2**

Who Should Attend: Newly appointed operations managers, line superintendents, or those who have potential or are being considered for these or other operations management positions.

**JANUARY 13-14, 2016 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4, SERIES 3: LEAD YOUR ORGANIZATION — TOOLS (formerly Pathways to Leadership)**

Who Should Attend: Directors, managers, graduates of the Leadership Skills Series (formerly Front Line Leadership), and newly appointed senior leaders.

**JANUARY 19-20, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **NEW! CLEAR BUSINESS WRITING**

Who Should Attend: Administrative professionals, as well as any employee who would like to sharpen his or her business-writing skills.

**JANUARY 20-21, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **NEW! DISTRIBUTION DISPATCHING: AC ELECTRICAL THEORY**

Who Should Attend: Dispatchers, electrical engineers, field engineers, electrical planners, linemen, and foremen/supervisors.

**JANUARY 21, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

### **EMPLOYER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TEAM PREPARATIONS**

Who Should Attend: General managers, operations managers, members of the employer bargaining team, and chief negotiators. We recommend that you send more than one team member to this class.

**JANUARY 25-26, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #1: PREPARING FOREMEN FOR LEADERSHIP; LEARNING TO LEAD OTHERS**

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

**JANUARY 27-28, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES (formerly Front Line Leadership) SESSION #5: SUPERVISING UNION EMPLOYEES**

Who Should Attend: Operations directors, managers, line superintendents, labor relations professionals, and human resource managers who supervise union employees and deal with stewards and officers of the union. This is an optional course in the Leadership Skills Series.

**JANUARY 27-29, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: PROTECTION/BASIC SECTIONALIZING DESIGN**

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

**FEBRUARY 1-2, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **STAKING TECHNICIANS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: LINE INSPECTION**

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

**FEBRUARY 2-3, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: SIZING TRANSFORMERS AND CONDUCTORS**

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

**FEBRUARY 3-4, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **ONLINE — LABOR RELATIONS WEBINAR SERIES**

Who Should Attend: HR and labor relations personnel who work with union employees and union business managers.

**FEBRUARY 4-18, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATIONS**

### **ONLINE — EMPLOYEE AND LABOR RELATIONS BASICS**

Who Should Attend: HR and labor relations personnel who work with union employees and union business managers.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

### **STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: UNIQUE STRUCTURES**

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.

**FEBRUARY 4-5, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: AC TRANSFORMER THEORY AND APPLICATION (2 DAYS) AND LINEMAN RIGGING (1 DAY)**

Who Should Attend: Linemen, linecrew foremen, substation personnel, electrical engineers, safety managers, and all personnel that would benefit from a theoretical and practical knowledge of AC transformers, regulators, capacitors, and grounding.

**FEBRUARY 9-11, 2016 — IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

### **ONLINE — DISCIPLINE: JUST CAUSE AND DUE PROCESS**

Who Should Attend: HR and labor relations personnel who work with union employees and union business managers.

**FEBRUARY 11, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES (formerly Pathways to Leadership): ALL FIVE SESSIONS**

Who Should Attend: Directors, managers, graduates of the

Leadership Skills series (formerly Front Line Leadership), and newly appointed leadership and individual contributors.  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2016 – JANUARY 22, 2017 — LOCATIONS VARY**

**SENIOR LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES SESSION #1, SERIES #4: (formerly Pathways to Leadership): LEAD YOURSELF**

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, managers, graduates of Leadership Skills Series (formerly Front Line Leadership), and newly appointed senior leaders.  
**FEBRUARY 16-18, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

**NEW! ONLINE — ENHANCED COMMUNICATION SKILLS WEBINAR SERIES**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who wants to increase his or her communication skills to be more effective working with internal and external customers.  
**FEBRUARY 17-MARCH 11, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATIONS**

**NEW! EXCEL FOUNDATIONS**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who would like to use Excel in a more efficient and effective manner. This course is ideal for anyone new to Excel or for users who are self-taught.  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

**NEW! ONLINE — COMMUNICATION STYLES**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who wants to increase his or her communication skills to be more effective working with internal and external customers or members of their teams.  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

**ONLINE — GRIEVANCE HANDLING**

**Who Should Attend:** HR and labor relation personnel who work with union employees and union business managers.  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

**LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES (formerly Front Line Leadership) SESSION #4: HR BASICS; BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE**

**Who Should Attend:** Supervisors and managers, and those employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.  
**FEBRUARY 24-25, 2016 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

**SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION OVERVIEW & INSPECTIONS**

**Who Should Attend:** Line and substation personnel, distribution engineers, and supervisors who have responsibility for transmission and distribution substations.  
**MARCH 2-3, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

**NEW! PowerShell FOR ADMINISTERING WINDOWS WORKSTATIONS, SERVERS, AND DOMAINS**

**Who Should Attend:** Windows system or domain administrators or support staff who want to learn how to integrate PowerShell into daily basic and advanced tasks. (Previous experience with any scripting or programming language will enhance the attendee's experience, but is not required.)  
**MARCH 8, 2016 — RENO, NEV.**

**BASICS OF BUDGETING & FINANCIAL FORECASTING**

**Who Should Attend:** Finance and accounting employees; senior management or policy makers; and any employee seeking to increase his or her knowledge of the budgeting process that takes place at electric utilities.  
**MARCH 8-9, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**EXCEL MASTERY**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who currently uses Excel and would

like to increase knowledge and efficiency applying calculations and database tools.  
**MARCH 9, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

**ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

**Who Should Attend:** Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business.  
**MARCH 9-10, 2016 — SACRAMENTO, CALIF.**

**FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #2 — EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING; TRANSITIONING FROM EMPLOYEE TO FOREMAN**

**Who Should Attend:** Foremen and crew leaders.  
**MARCH 9-10, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

**NEW! HIGH-BILL INQUIRIES: BUILDING YOUR HBI TOOLKIT**

**Who Should Attend:** Customer/member service and field representatives who respond to customer inquiries regarding energy use.  
**MARCH 9-10, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**IT CONFERENCE: PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF RECOVERY**

**Who Should Attend:** IT professionals and others who are responsible for information technology programs as well as members of the operations and engineering functions who would like to build a stronger relationship with IT.  
**MARCH 9-11, 2016 — RENO, NEV.**

**NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORK ORDERS**

**Who Should Attend:** Employees involved in any aspect of preparing and/or processing work orders for their electric utility, or employees outside the accounting area who want a better understanding of the work order process.  
**MARCH 10-11, 2016 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 1 — CRITICAL-THINKING AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS**

**Who Should Attend:** Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.  
**MARCH 15, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 2 — POSITIVE ASSERTIVENESS**

**Who Should Attend:** Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.  
**MARCH 16, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

**NEW! ONLINE — LISTENING FOR SUCCESS**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who wants to increase communication skills to be more effective working with both internal and external customers.  
**MARCH 16, 2016 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

**NEW! SUBSTATION SERIES: PRINT READING**

**Who Should Attend:** Line and substation personnel and distribution engineers who have responsibility for distribution and transmission substations.  
**MARCH 16, 2016 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

**INCREASING COLLECTION EFFECTIVENESS**

**Who Should Attend:** Members within the customer service, credit, and collections departments of public power utilities.  
**MARCH 16-17, 2016 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

**LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES (formerly Front Line Leadership) SESSION #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**Who Should Attend:** Supervisors and managers, and employees

*Continued on page 10*

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

who will be transitioning to a supervisory or managerial role in the future.

**MARCH 16-17, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

### **OPERATIONS MANAGER & LINE SUPERINTENDENT BOOTCAMP: SESSION 3**

**Who Should Attend:** Newly appointed operations managers, line superintendents, or those who have leadership potential. (It is not required that each session of the series be taken in order.)

**MARCH 16-17, 2016 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 3 — ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS; TIME & STRESS MANAGEMENT**

**Who Should Attend:** Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.

**MARCH 17, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

### **NEW! SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION TRANSFORMER & REGULATOR MAINTENANCE**

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

**MARCH 17, 2016 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2: DAY 4 — PERSONAL STRATEGIES FOR NAVIGATING CHANGE**

**Who Should Attend:** Executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and secretaries.

**MARCH 18, 2016 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

### **NWPPA LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS MEMBER MEETING (formerly the Northwest Wage & Hour Group)**

**Who Should Attend:** Members of the NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations Group, which includes general managers, labor relations managers, and human resource professionals.

**MARCH 18, 2016 — RICHLAND, WASH.**

### **NEW! SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION BATTERY MAINTENANCE & TESTING**

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

**MARCH 18, 2016 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### **REVENUE METERING: INTRODUCTION AND APPLICATION**

**Who Should Attend:** Metering, service, engineering, and operations personnel; service and meter sales representatives; purchasers of meter products; supervisors; and other individuals who require an understanding of revenue meters.

**MARCH 22-23, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### **DISTRIBUTION ENGINEERING SERIES: SESSION 2 — OVERCURRENT PROTECTION**

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

**MARCH 30-31, 2016 — VANCOUVER, WASH. NWPPA**

# EVEN IN THE PUBLIC POWER INDUSTRY: BANKRUPTCY HAPPENS

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by Joel Scruggs

# Behind the savings: How energy-efficient tech moves from promise to placement

Since 1980, Northwest electric utilities have saved homeowners, farmers, businesses, and industries over five average gigawatts of power and made energy efficiency the region's second-largest power resource. An important part of this success story has been pursuing new technologies with the potential to deliver cost-effective energy savings in all sectors of the economy.

"Maintaining a steady flow of new technologies is essential to meeting the Northwest's energy-saving goals," said Richard Génécé, vice president of Energy Efficiency for BPA. "And it requires a tremendous amount of collaboration on a local, regional, and national level."

BPA and Northwest public utilities partner with manufacturers, researchers, universities, and experts to identify, screen, and assess emerging technologies. They look at technology risk, regional energy-savings potential, and possible barriers to market adoption.

"A lot goes on behind the scenes before utilities promote new energy-efficient technologies to Northwest consumers," said Rob Penney, senior energy engineer at the Washington State University Energy Program.

Heat pump water heaters are a technology that moved from promise to placement. While two to three times more efficient than conventional electric resistance water heaters and considered proven technology in other parts of the country, BPA and others were once skeptical about their future in the region. In the 1980s, many units were unreliable and some were even pulled from the market. There were also concerns about their noise, output of cool air, and viability in the Northwest climate. But the region took a closer look when big-name brands brought improved technology to market in the late 2000s.

"We took a proactive approach to find out if the new models were suitable for the region and to be more informed about the homeowner experience," recalled Sarah F. Moore, BPA's residential sector lead.

In 2009, BPA's emerging technologies team began performing quality assurance tests in a lab and comparing



*BPA and Northwest public utilities tested the performance and homeowner experience of new heat pump water heaters before promoting them to consumers. (Photo provided by BPA.)*

results to the manufacturer's data. A year later, BPA and 14 Northwest utilities installed 40 heat pump water heaters in single-family homes as part of a national project sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

"Research projects can help us verify energy savings on technologies that we may be unable to easily evaluate on our own," noted Kevin Fischer, energy efficiency adviser with Benton PUD in Kennewick, Wash., a demo project participant.

The water heaters performed well across the board, although the energy savings varied based on the type of heating system in the home; where the units were installed, typically in a garage, laundry room, or closet; and size of the tank (larger tanks were more efficient).

*Although more expensive than a standard electric model, a heat pump water heater will save the average home roughly \$200 a year compared to a standard unit, or about \$2,000 of savings over the typical 10-year lifetime of a water heater.*



“The field testing gave us confidence in the energy-saving estimates,” said Chuck Weseman, operations manager of Hood River Electric Co-op in Oregon.

When providing incentives for the purchase of an energy-efficient appliance, utilities look at the payback over the life of the product. Although more expensive than a standard electric model, a heat pump water heater will save the average home roughly \$200 a year compared to a standard unit, or about \$2,000 of savings over the typical 10-year lifetime of a water heater.

Beyond performance and savings, testing highlighted non-energy benefits and drawbacks, such as comfort and noise, which can trump energy savings in a consumer’s purchasing decision.

“We provide feedback to manufacturers to help them develop products that better meet the interests and needs of utilities and their residential customers,” said Jack Callahan, BPA mechanical engineer.

Results were presented to the Regional Technical Forum as part of the designation process that confirms the savings are quantifiable, reliable, and cost effective, which gives utilities confidence in the energy savings their customers will see.

And data from the regional project also supported the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance’s (NEEA) development of a new technical specification designed to ensure savings, performance, and satisfaction for Northwest consumers. The specification addresses customer comfort, sound levels, and performance issues such as freeze protection and condensation management for climates with average ambient temperatures below 60 degrees Fahrenheit, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

“The Northern Climate Specification influenced manufacturers to develop heat pump water heaters that are better suited for the cooler Northwest climate,” said Jill Reynolds, NEEA’s heat pump water heater program manager.

In addition, research in the Northwest influenced new federal efficiency standard for large water heaters, which went into effect this year. The new standard calls for water heaters manufactured after April 2015 with tanks larger than 55 gallons to meet the efficiency level of equivalent heat pump water heaters. According to the Department of Energy, wide adoption of efficient water heaters over the

next three decades (until 2044) could result in \$63 billion in energy bill savings.

Currently, BPA and its partners are evaluating next-generation technology that could save more energy and deliver other benefits. Heat pump water heaters that use carbon dioxide as a refrigerant produce hot water with about a quarter of the energy of a typical electric water heater, and CO<sub>2</sub> is less harmful to the environment than typical refrigerants. Plus, units outfitted with advanced control devices could help utilities balance the varying demands for energy on the system. With homeowner permission, these water heaters could be triggered on when there’s excess energy on the grid or off during periods of peak demand, essentially serving as a thermal energy storage device.

Meanwhile, the behind-the-scenes work is paying off. More than 5,000 heat pump water heaters have been installed in Northwest homes. Hundreds of contractors have been trained as qualified installers. Many utilities are offering an economic incentive to make the energy-saving switch more appealing.

And the Northwest Power and Conservation Council sees heat pump water heaters as an important energy saver for at least the next 20 years, projecting that up to 45 percent of homes will feature heat pump water heating by 2035. **NWPPA**

*Joel Scruggs is a public affairs specialist in the Media Relations and Policy Communications Department at Bonneville Power Administration. He can be contacted at (503) 230-5511 or [jlsruggs@bpa.gov](mailto:jlsruggs@bpa.gov).*



Read about Ravalli Electric Cooperative’s success with energy-efficient products and programs in this month’s cover story starting on page 26.

## Knowledge-sharing resources for industry professionals

**E** 3TNW.org is an online resource to help BPA, electric utilities, manufacturers, institutions, and industry leaders identify and evaluate energy-saving technologies. The website features about 250 emerging technologies and includes information about potential energy savings, cost benefits, non-energy benefits, ease of adoption, and technology readiness.

In 2010, BPA and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance launched [conduitnw.org](http://conduitnw.org), a Web-based resource that facilitates information-sharing, coordination, and collaboration among energy-efficiency professionals in the Northwest. Today, Conduit has more than 2,400 users. **NWPPA**

by Anita J. Decker

# Celebrating the past 75 years and looking forward to the next 75



**A**nd so concludes the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of NWPPA. In looking back over this past year, we had a lot to celebrate, starting with the success of an association that has stood the test of time due to the foresight, commitment, and guidance of a strong public power community and the many NWPPA Boards of Trustees and members along the way.

Over the course of the year we invited our *Bulletin* readers to find the anniversary diamond each month; celebrated with a gala dinner in Anchorage, Alaska, during our Annual Meeting; honored public power leaders; and shared our history and that of many of our members who were also celebrating their own milestone histories.

We celebrated our past with our eye on the future.

Our eye on our future. In service to the future, we put in place several changes for the association during 2015. We updated our member investment formula, revamped our website, and replaced the association membership system. Not only do these changes benefit the association, they also benefit our members. The membership investment should better preserve our financial health; the website was designed to be more user friendly, making it easier for members to access information; and the replacement of the association membership system enables members to self-access and modify information and for us to better sort, track, and target classes and events for our members. These changes and upgrades should serve NWPPA well into the future.

Our eye on the future also includes your future. We are deeply engaged with you and the changes across the industry that signal a potential for a dramatically different future. In just 12 short months, we have seen the future increasingly open to new third-party products and services more than at any time over the past 25 years. We have all seen the words and the signs at every meeting, in every trade publication, in advertisements, in stores, and in new businesses coming to your communities. The changes show up as solar, distributed energy, energy efficiency, battery technology, demand response options, electric vehicles, back-up generation, home automation, home monitoring, smart appliances, dynamic thermostats, security systems, smart strips, LEDs, and information on your phone, on your tablet, on your watch.

Our eye is on the future of what our members need to succeed: credible and timely information; a well-trained staff comprised of employees who are thinking creatively about solving problems and the skills to do so; and a collective Western voice as legislation and regulation make their own indents on how distributing energy (planning, permit-

*We are truly fortunate that we have the engagement and support of so much of our public power membership, but there is always room for more participation in the committees who help us to best serve you.*



ting, resource type and shape, cost, and compliance) and serving consumers is shaped.

We continue to grow our membership, which in turn strengthens our collective network. A network that we all get to take advantage of from sharing the pilots, lessons learned, and successes and pitfalls of the challenges and opportunities before we, as members, take different approaches to address new opportunities based on the communities they serve.

Our eye is on the future — your future and ours. We have our 2016 work plan completed and it includes an increase in educational events for 2016 — over 225! — and we are still considering what to do with a few more key events we'd like to get on the calendar, such as incident command training (ICS) for responding to emergencies, disasters, and working with mutual aid and multi-agency partners. Also important to us is supporting our members on issues like rate design; infrastructure as a service; emerging markets as is being investigated in Alaska and the Northwest; and a continued focus on legislation and administrative regulations associated with the implementation of the clean power plan, vegetation management, endangered species, and grid (including distribution systems) modernization.

I want to close with a 2016 invitation as we all keep our eyes on the future. We are truly fortunate that we have the engagement and support of so much of our public power membership, but there is always room for more participation in the committees who help us to best serve you. We have a whole host of opportunities in numerous committees (such as the Environmental Task Force, Engineering and Operations, Information Technology, Customer Service, Administrative Professionals, or Government Relations) and I invite you to encourage someone on your leadership team or a lead subject matter expert to get engaged by contacting NWPPA to participate in these committees as we embark on the next 75 years. **NWPPA**

by Lance Robertson

# EWEB's Business Growth and Retention Strategy benefits utility customers and local businesses



*Senior Chief Engineer Dave Bryant (center) stands with his fellow SnoTemp employees. With the help of EWEB's program, SnoTemp has saved five million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, enough to power 345 homes for a year.*

**L**ike other communities in the Pacific Northwest, Eugene was hit hard by the severe economic downturn that reached its peak in early 2009 and then lingered for the next few years. Closure of the city's big semiconductor factory, the collapse of the area's motor home industry, and other economic woes also had a huge impact on Eugene Water & Electric Board's revenues as demand for electricity fell. To make matters worse, EWEB's ability to sell all that surplus electricity was hindered by the collapse of the wholesale energy market.

As the economy began to improve, however, utility officials began asking: How can we help businesses that are starting to grow and expand, in a way that would also generate more revenue from the sale of electricity?

The answer came with creation of a Business Growth and Retention Strategy that provides qualifying businesses with low-interest financing, rate options, and other assistance. In December 2013, EWEB's elected commissioners adopted the strategy and created a \$1.5 million loan pool to kick-start the effort.

"As a public utility, we have a vested interest in helping our community thrive," said EWEB Key Account Manager

Tom Williams. "We created the Business Growth & Retention program to encourage and support local businesses first and then help attract new customers."

The program has two key components for qualifying customers. First, low-interest loans help customers pay the up-front costs of electric, water, and telecommunication services that are needed when a business expands or builds a new facility. These costs may include utility equipment purchases, as well as associated EWEB construction and engineering services, line extension costs, and connection fees.

Second, rate credits are available for the first three years a local business expands or when a new company relocates to Eugene. The credit is based on the differential between the wholesale and retail electric markets.

So far, about half of the \$1.5 million has already been put to work in low-interest loans, and in most cases, the business receiving assistance has already paid it back in full.

The loans have been helpful to some local businesses that were facing some high up-front costs to upgrade electrical infrastructure or extend new water pipes to serve the growing business.

*Continued on page 16*

Ninkasi Brewing Co. — the city’s largest craft brewery — was the first customer to participate in EWEB’s loan program. Chief Financial Officer Nigel Francisco can attest to the value of the loan. “Without [it], we would have had to make cuts elsewhere in the project,” Francisco said. EWEB’s expansion of the program to include both the loan and the new electric rate is designed to help attract and encourage further business growth and retention in its community.

The expanded program benefits the community by promoting economic development and job growth. For example, Ninkasi’s new, 28,000-square-foot expansion will double the company’s production, bringing about 30 additional jobs to Eugene over the next three years.

Job creation is just one of the “triple bottom line” criteria EWEB uses to evaluate projects for the program. Applicants must demonstrate how their project will contribute to the community’s economic, social, and environmental vitality.

Funding varies by project. The business growth and retention electric rate credit is available for new or additional load of at least 200 kilowatts per month, and stays in effect for three years. Loan amounts can be up to \$500,000 with terms up to five years and a four-percent interest rate. Applicants must have established credit worthiness and demonstrate the ability to meet loan repayment obligations.

In all, nearly a dozen customers have participated in the program or have submitted applications. Total job growth is estimated at 130. Completed projects are generating about a half-million in additional electric and water revenues.

Ninkasi’s price tag for upgrading the electric and water services to its new facility was \$289,000. The loan helped the company spread out those costs over a three-year period, rather than paying them up-front.

For EWEB, the Ninkasi expansion is expected to add about \$130,000 in revenues per year from more than 1.2 million kilowatt-hours of electric consumption and 12 million gallons of water usage annually.

Francisco describes the program as mutually beneficial.

“It helps us because we are able to pay the large infrastructure costs over time with a low-interest loan,” he said. “It helps EWEB because our expansion will use more power and water.”

SnoTemp (originally Eugene Freezing & Storage) is another local company that has benefitted from the utility’s business-growth program. In business for more than 50 years in Eugene, the cold storage company has also completed more than a dozen energy-efficiency upgrades over the years, often with the help of EWEB rebates, incentives, and technical assistance.

Overall, SnoTemp’s energy-efficiency upgrades have resulted in approximately five million kilowatt-hours of electricity saved annually, which is enough energy to supply 345 homes for a year.

So when the company also launched construction in 2014 of a new, 70,000-square-foot facility in west Eugene, EWEB was there with its business growth program as well as incentives and assistance to make the expanded facility as energy efficient as possible. In addition, SnoTemp agreed to



*Ninkasi Brewing was the first customer to participate in EWEB’s loan program.*

be the first commercial customer to join EWEB’s demand-response pilot, to demonstrate and test the ability of a commercial enterprise to decrease or increase its power demand in a 10-minute window.

When the expansion project was completed, SnoTemp’s overall energy use increased, generating about \$130,000 additional revenues for the utility. The company took advantage of the three-year rate credit option. In return, SnoTemp has seen significant operational savings, allowing the organization to be more competitive and help retain its customers — all while growing its business.

EWEB also recently added a second loan program for commercial customers who want to add electric-vehicle charging stations. The loan has the same terms and pay-back period. Customers with vehicle fleets, apartment complexes, shopping centers, and other customers can get the loans to pay for the EV charging stations.

Finally, the program also applies to companies that want to relocate in Eugene. Recently, a large semiconductor company announced it has purchased the same facility that closed at the start of the recession eight years ago. The company likely will take advantage of the rate-credit option.

NWPPA

*Lance Robertson is the public affairs manager for the Eugene Water & Electric Board and an adjunct instructor at the University of Oregon’s School of Journalism and Communication. He can be reached at lance.robertson@eweb.org.*

### Lewis PUD announces new Power Management Team

In July, Lewis PUD (Chehalis, Wash.) promoted **Chris Roden** to be the manager of Power and Business Services. Roden has been with Lewis for three years, coming to the District with several years of experience in the



(L-R) Chris Roden and Matt Samuelson

industry. On September 28, **Matt Samuelson** joined the team as the District's power and compliance analyst. Samuelson comes to Lewis with 17 years of experience in public power, predominately in power supply management.

The Power Management Team at Lewis County PUD has a lot on their plate. They oversee the District's wholesale power supply, including spot/forward physical/financial power and transmission transactions; resource planning and acquisitions; analysis of alternative energy resources; load/resource forecasts; and wholesale power fuel contracts. They aggregate information relating to the District's power supply to formulate a load-resource analysis and make informed decisions. Through the Risk Management Committee, they oversee the relationship with the District's 24-hour trading desk in Bellevue and BPA's power and transmission groups, with the overall objective to reduce risk and reduce power costs to the District.

They represent the District on regional committees covering renewable energy; power and transmission contracts; and power resources in which the District has contractual or ownership responsibilities. They also ensure compliance with BPA and statutory requirements concerning power supply, renewable energy, and carbon among other requirements.

Both Roden and Samuelson enjoy the challenges and complexity of power management and Lewis PUD is confident in the power of this dynamic duo. **NWPPA**

### Dan Frazier to join Chelan PUD

The previous director of Public Works for the City of Wenatchee, **Dan Frazier**, will join Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) on December 14. Frazier was with the city for 11 years, eight of them as director of Public

Works. Prior to joining the City of Wenatchee staff, he was director of Public Works for the City of Quincy. Earlier in his career, he worked for Douglas County in project management and construction engineering.

The District conducted a nationwide search for **Steve Currit's** replacement.

"In the end, it came down to an understanding of the local community and Frazier's broad professional experience," said **Jeff Smith**, managing director of District Services. "We are looking forward to having Dan join our team."

"I have had the opportunity to work with many PUD staff and commission members over the years and have always been impressed with the degree of professionalism and commitment to excellence that they have embodied. I am very excited to become part of such an exceptional team," said Frazier.

Frazier will play a key role as the District continues implementation of its five-year strategic plan efforts, including the development of a long-range PUD facilities plan. His responsibilities at the District will include facilities, fleet, real estate, supply chain, office services, and warehousing.

**NWPPA**

### Grays Harbor bids farewell to Pellegrini

The Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.) has bid a bittersweet farewell to Special Projects Manager **John Pellegrini**. As special projects manager, Pellegrini was charged with lessening the financial impact of the Harbor Paper clean-up. Estimated at over \$10 million in 2013, the project entered its final days with an estimated final cost of just over \$4 million. Counting in Department of Ecology funding, the final PUD responsibility was under \$2 million.

"John has done everything that we have asked of him and more," said General Manager **Dave Ward**. "We asked him to manage this clean-up project in a way that would limit the impact to the PUD customers; when all is said and done, he has succeeded."

Working with state and local agencies, Pellegrini was able to re-purpose tons of waste product at the facility. This included using over 15,000 tons of sand ash as a registered fertilizer; using over 10,000 tons of concrete remains from the primary and secondary clarifiers to shore up Aberdeen hillsides damaged by landslides; and using 20,000 tons of bark-rock mixture for the surface mine reclamation project in Mason County.

This re-purposing saved the utility and its customers nearly half-a-million dollars in clean-up costs. **NWPPA**

### Clallam PUD opens new main office

As of November 24, customers of Clallam County PUD (Port Angeles, Wash.) can now enjoy one-stop shopping at the PUD's new main office. The new main office houses all PUD departments most used by customers in one convenient location. The main office is located at 104 Hooker Road in Carlsborg; the Port Angeles and Sequim Offices closed on November 20.

PUD General Manager **Doug Nass** said, "We are excited about the new efficiencies this will bring to the PUD and the one-stop shopping opportunities for our customers."

The main office was part of a long-term facilities plan that started in 2007. The PUD broke ground on the \$8-million, 29,496-square-foot main office in October 2014. The architect is Lawhead Architects P.S. out of Bellevue, and the primary Contractor is Neeley Construction & Cabinet Company out of Puyallup. Neeley utilized local subcontractors throughout various stages of the project as well.

PUD Board of Commissioners President **Will Purser** said, "We are optimistic about the future in Clallam County, and with aging facilities we decided to take steps to make certain we were in a position to provide our customers the efficiencies and productivity they deserve. It became obvious that this was the right time to address our infrastructure needs. Favorable interest rates, decreased commodity prices, and competitive construction costs reaffirmed our decision."

A public grand opening event for the main office is being planned for Saturday, December 12. **NWPPA**

### Columbia River's website receives national honors

Columbia River People's Utility District's (St. Helens, Ore.) website, [www.crpud.net](http://www.crpud.net), was chosen as the first recipient of a new Excellence in Public Power Communications Award from the American Public Power Association (APPA).

"Your entry represents a committed effort to excellence on the part of your utility and your communications department," said APPA President and CEO **Sue Kelly**.

APPA conducts the Excellence in Public Power Communications competition to encourage and recognize excellence in communications. The contest has traditionally focused on utility annual reports and was reorganized this year to feature the categories of print, social media, video, and Web. The PUD has previously received five awards for its annual reports.

"We have created a user-friendly and information-filled site at an affordable cost," said Interim General Manager **John Nguyen**. "I am glad APPA recognized our commitment to excellence in communications with this award." **NWPPA**

### Jocelyne Gray accepts emerging leader award

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) awarded **Jocelyne Gray, PE**, director of operations-water for Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.), with its Emerging Leader award for her impact on the society and the engineering community. Gray accepted the award at SWE's annual conference in Nashville, Tenn., on October 23.



The Emerging Leader award recognizes Gray for her remarkable generosity and initiative in her public, private, and professional life; specifically for educating the public about water safety and quality, and for encouraging future engineers. From nearly 100 nominations, only 10 were selected for this year's honor, including engineers from The Boeing Company, Intel Corporation, Caterpillar, Bank of America, and other large corporations with over 5,000 employees. Mason County PUD No. 1, by comparison, has 23 total employees, five of whom work in the water department. Gray was the only engineer from a small organization selected for this award. Recipients were judged on criteria and qualifications in areas including engineering experience; engagement in engineering or technology professions; demonstrated leadership; and personal recommendations from industry peers.

"Having my work in our small corner of the world be recognized by a national organization is a great honor. The safety, quality, and availability of drinking water is important to me and to the citizens of Mason County," said Gray.

Originally from Kennewick, Wash., Gray is a civil engineer licensed in the state of Washington. She has been with Mason County PUD No. 1 since 2009, and was previously recognized by Washington state's Department of Health Office of Drinking Water with their 2011 Grace Under Pressure award. **NWPPA**

### Energy Northwest recognized as military-friendly employer

Victory Media, publisher of *G.I. Jobs*®, named Energy Northwest a 2016 Military Friendly® Employer for its efforts in recruiting veterans to work at the public power agency. Criteria for the designation include a benchmark survey score across key programs and policies, such as the strength of company military recruiting efforts, percentage of new hires with prior military service, retention programs for veterans, and company policies on National Guard and Reserve service.

Energy Northwest is committed to hiring military talent, knowing first-hand that recruiting from the military community is not only the “right thing to do,” but it makes good business sense.

“There is a strong relationship between the military, particularly the Navy, and commercial nuclear power,” said **Brent Ridge**, EN vice president for Corporate Services/chief financial and risk officer. “But we have found great team members from all branches of the service who have strengthened our organization.”

Energy Northwest employs nearly 300 military veterans in departments including Operations, Engineering, Health Physics, Security, and Human Resources.

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, Military Friendly<sup>®</sup> Employers is the premier resource for transitioning service members and spouses seeking civilian employment. Energy Northwest will be showcased along with other 2016 Military Friendly<sup>®</sup> Employers in the December issue of *G.I. Jobs*<sup>®</sup> magazine as well as on MilitaryFriendly.com. **NWPPA**

## Douglas PUD congratulates Jenny Scott

**D**uring the November 9 Douglas County PUD (East Wenatchee, Wash.) Commission meeting, Commissioners **Ron Skagen**, **Jim Davis**, and **Molly Simpson** awarded Administrative Assistant **Jenny Scott** with her 25-year service award.

Commissioner Skagen thanked Scott on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for her years of service. Scott thanked the commission and said, “It’s been enjoyable. I feel lucky and am appreciative of the opportunity.” **NWPPA**



## Turlock enters agreement with SunPower

**O**n November 10, Turlock Irrigation District (Calif.) and SunPower announced a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) under which TID will buy clean renewable solar power from SunPower. To serve the agreement, SunPower started construction in November on a 54-megawatt (AC) solar photovoltaic power plant at the company’s Rosamond Solar site in Kern County, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2016. TID anticipates the plant to generate an equivalent amount of energy to serve approximately 20,000 homes.

TID estimates the PPA will move the District approximately seven percent closer to meeting the state of California’s recently increased Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement of 50-percent renewables by 2030. It will also add another significant resource to the

District’s already diverse portfolio of certified environmentally friendly greenhouse-gas-free resources, which include wind, eligible small hydro, geothermal, and photovoltaic solar.

“This power purchase agreement puts TID on a clear path to meet both current and future RPS obligations and clean climate goals, as well as continuing a long-standing commitment to a diverse and reliable mix of generation resources to serve TID customers,” said TID General Manager **Casey Hashimoto**.

The TID Board of Directors approved making this solar power acquisition in March of this year after a comprehensive bidding and study process. TID was open to all qualified technologies, with or without storage, and inside or outside TID, and received 129 proposals from 29 different entities. **NWPPA**

## Izzo named new GM for MEA

**T**he Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) Board of Directors has voted unanimously to hire **Tony Izzo** as the new general manager.

“Tony has been part of the MEA family for almost four years and has consistently demonstrated a high level of integrity and collaboration. After an exhaustive search, including 22 applicants and multiple interviews, we are confident he is the right person to lead MEA forward,” said Board President **Elsie “Lois” Lester**.

**Joe Griffith**, current general manager of MEA, is set to retire in January 2016 after many years in the electrical utility industry. “I have known and worked with Tony for 15 years and am confident that he will be a complete success,” said Griffith.

Izzo has worked for MEA as the manager of fuel supply since April 2012 and brings 34 years of experience in utility operations, leadership, and regulatory relationships, including time as the CEO of ENSTAR Natural Gas.

“I am fortunate for the progress resulting from Joe Griffith’s leadership and accomplishments over the past few years,” said Izzo. “I am honored to carry that good work forward with the help of our strong MEA team and members.”

**NWPPA**



## New Grant PUD visitor center now open

**T**he Power of the Columbia River, Grant PUD’s new visitor center, held its grand opening on December 1.

Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the center opened to the public with new displays that highlight the balancing act between hydropower, fish passage, recreation, and natural resource management.

*Continued on page 20*

Located adjacent to Wanapum Dam, about seven miles south of the Vantage Bridge, The Power of the Columbia River provides an opportunity for visitors of all ages to experience firsthand how Grant PUD operates its dams on the Columbia.

There are many interactive exhibits within the 2,000-square-foot facility that allow visitors to travel through time as they see how the Columbia River shaped Grant County. A theater features several videos that describe how the Columbia Basin was formed and how Wanapum Dam works. Visitors will also generate their own electricity, learn about fish in the river, as well as where to enjoy recreation along the Columbia River.

“We want this to be a center where schools, families, and members of the community can visit and use as an educational resource,” said Grant PUD Commission President Dale Walker.

The visitor center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in October through April, and open daily (including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays) in May through September. Admission is free. The center is a component of Grant PUD’s federal license requirements to provide educational opportunities and access to customers.

NWPPA

### AMP announces new EV charging stations

**A**lameda Municipal Power (AMP) has unveiled two new charging stations for electric vehicles in Alameda, Calif. The stations are the city’s first Level 3 DC fast chargers and will charge an electric car in less than 30 minutes.

The new fast-charging stations were funded by a grant from the California Energy Commission and the Bay Area Quality Management District. Construction of the stations began in July 2015 and they are now ready for use.

The charging stations operate on the Greenlots network and are CHAdeMO and CCS Combo compliant, which means that car owners can charge their electric vehicles, including the Nissan Leaf, Chevy Spark, and BMW i3, for a small \$7 fee.

The fast chargers are located in the public parking lot of the AMP building at 2000 Grand Street. **NWPPA**

### NLI helps Alta Forest Products conserve energy

**W**ith the assistance of Northern Lights Inc., the Alta Forest Products mill (formerly Welco) wasted no time pursuing the opportunity to install energy-saving measures at their Naples, Idaho, mill.

Alta Forest Products’ zero-wood-waste sawmills produce by-products such as wood chips, sawdust, mulch, and

bio-fuel. In order to meet the zero-waste goals, **Ryan Comer**, Alta Forest Products LLC operations manager/ Naples, Idaho, completely redesigned their handling and processing systems by installing a chipper and conveyor system in November 2014.

Before the mill installed this chipper, all the residual pieces could only be turned into bio-fuel. Northern Lights’ energy-saving industrial rebate program, through the Bonneville Power Administration, was able to assist Alta Forest Products in saving hundreds of kilowatt-hours on their annual energy usage by providing an energy rebate for this project.

The chipper now enables the mill to make paper-mill-quality chips for the first time. This new chipper, with powerful energy-saving motors, allows residual pieces of lumber to be chipped and sent to the Clearwater paper mill in Lewiston, Idaho. The ground-up cedar bark is distributed throughout the United States and abroad to be used as landscape materials and other decorative uses, and the remaining wood turns into sawdust which is also sent to the Clearwater paper mill in Lewiston, Idaho.

“I would like to thank Northern Lights Inc. for their continued partnership, along with their reliability in helping Alta Forest Products LLC become an industry leader in cedar fencing now and into the future for generations of forestry workers and their families,” said Comer. **NWPPA**

### Okanogan PUD linemen participate in rodeo

**O**kanogan PUD (Wash.) Linemen **JD Adams, Bill Ingram, Micah Somes, and Nick Gardner** represented Okanogan PUD as one of 229 teams that attended the International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kan., on October 17. The Lineman’s Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks and skills, and promotes commitment to work-safe practices.

The Okanogan team participated and placed well in the



*Okanogan PUD linemen were one team out of 229 that competed at the International Lineman’s Rodeo.*

Journeyman Best of the Best, the Hurtman Rescue, Pole Climb, and Mystery Events competitions. **NWPPA**

## Sacramento Shade program marks 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary



*SMUD and Sacramento Tree Foundation board members and executives help plant a willow oak sapling to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their partnership.*

**S**MUD and the Sacramento Tree Foundation recently celebrated 25 years of partnership with the planting of a ceremonial willow oak at the southeast corner of SMUD's Headquarters building. The partnership — known as the Sacramento Shade program — has delivered more than half a million free shade trees to residences and businesses since 1990.

“The Sacramento Shade program has been helping our customers cool their homes and save money for more than two and a half decades,” said Sacramento Shade program manager **Misha Sarkovich**. “We’re very proud to have helped Sacramento become the ‘city of trees.’”

Sacramento Shade provides a wide variety of benefits to homeowners and the community, such as reducing home cooling costs up to 40 percent after five years of growth, the community's peak electricity demand, and atmospheric carbon as well as the urban heat-island effect.

Over the last 25 years, the Sacramento Shade program has taken advantage of a number of technological innovations in order to serve customers more quickly and efficiently. The newest example is a Web-based, interactive tree placement tool. By visiting [arborday.org/snud](http://arborday.org/snud), customers can try out different trees and configurations to see what combination produces the most energy savings; they can then order their trees right from the website.

SMUD was the first utility in the nation to establish a

large-scale, utility-funded tree planting program. SMUD has also won the Tree Line USA award 14 years in a row. **NWPPA**

## Mendonca promoted to VP of Power Supply

**P**NGC Power, a Portland-based generation and transmission cooperative, has named **Greg Mendonca** as vice president of Power Supply. In this role, Mendonca will be responsible for management of PNGC Power's long-term resource planning, as well as acquisition for procuring, integrating, transmitting, and managing purchased power supplies, including the establishment of rates and pricing. Mendonca will also oversee new generation resources for PNGC Power's members, 14 Northwest electric distribution cooperative utilities with service territory in seven western states.

“Planning for our member's future energy needs is no small task, but Greg brings experience and a proven track record,” said PNGC Power President and CEO **John Prescott**. “Greg's been integral in PNGC Power's recent resource developments, and we're confident our members will benefit from his leadership.”

Mendonca joined the PNGC Power team in January 2006, as a real time trader. Since that time he has been a resource analyst, manager of Term Planning, and manager of Resource Planning. Prior to PNGC Power, Mendonca worked for Wells Fargo. Mendonca holds a Master of Business Administration degree, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in accounting, from Oregon State University. **NWPPA**

## Cirrincone re-elected to NHA Board

**T**he National Hydropower Association (NHA) congratulated **Jane Cirrincone** on her reappointment to the NHA Board of Directors on November 30. Beginning in January, Cirrincone, assistant general manager of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs for the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), will serve a second four-year term on the board.

As an executive for NCPA, Cirrincone manages government relations, external affairs, and member programs on behalf of the agency and its 15 member utilities and districts throughout Northern California.

Prior to joining NCPA, she was a senior government relations representative for the American Public Power Association in Washington, D.C., where she lobbied Congress on electricity industry restructuring, federal hydropower, and telecommunications issues.

She is also the vice president of the Transmission Access Policy Study Group, and sits on the board of directors for the American Public Power Association's political action committee, PowerPAC. **NWPPA**

### New T&B product used for expansion of beams, struts

**T**he T&B® Cable Tray Over-Support Splice Adaptor, new from Thomas & Betts (T&B), reduces costs by reducing the need for structural supports for the expansion of beams and struts. It also can be used for mid-span splicing.



“The Over-Support Splice Adaptor was originally designed to reduce the number of supports needed for expansion of modular aluminum beam and strut system assemblies,” said **Ralph Donati**, product marketing director at T&B. “Engineers, contractors, and end users have found that it contributes to cost reductions without sacrificing the assembly’s structural integrity.”

The T&B® Cable Tray Over-Support Splice Adaptor is placed below the expansion joint and allows for wider distribution of support, thereby minimizing stress and deflection on the assembly. No additional supports are required.

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

### NECA releases 2015 PPE Selector app

**T**he National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) announced the release of its 2015 Personal Protect Equipment (PPE) Selector app, based on the 2015 edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace and designed after NECA’s popular print publication, *NECA’s NFPA 70E PPE Selector*.

“NECA is very excited about this version of the PPE Selector app and the information provided to personnel,” said NECA Director of Safety **Wes Wheeler**. “By providing the rubber glove charts in addition to the clothing and equipment provided in PPE categories, an electrician can easily determine what he or she needs to wear while working around energized equipment.”

This popular guide was developed by NECA to assist the industry in understanding and applying the personal protective requirements of NFPA 70E and it has become one of NECA’s best-selling publications due to its practicality and design which facilitates employees make sure all safety work practices are applied. The content is based on the information contained in the standard. This guide is not

designated as a replacement for the NFPA standard but only to serve as a quick reference for contractors working in the field.

The app is available for \$9.99 in iTunes and Google Play stores for both mobile and tablet devices.

NECA is the voice of the \$130 billion electrical construction industry that brings power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities across the U.S. For more information, visit [www.necanet.org/home](http://www.necanet.org/home).

**NWPPA**

### SEPA and ADS join forces

**T**he Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) and Association for Demand Response and Smart Grid (ADS) announced on November 10 that they are joining forces and will now move forward as one organization under the SEPA banner.

The announcement follows SEPA’s recent move to expand its mission from a focus on utility integration of only large-scale and distributed solar, to a broader view including a suite of distributed energy resources, from demand response and storage to microgrids, electric vehicles, and other smart-grid technologies.

A rebranding effort is being planned for early 2016, which will include a name change that reflects the organization’s expanded mission.

“It became apparent to the boards of both organizations earlier this year that by working more closely, as a single organization, we could better serve the needs of all our members,” said **Steve Malnight**, senior vice president for regulatory affairs at Pacific Gas and Electric, and SEPA Board chair.

The ADS representatives joining the SEPA Board of Directors are **Chris King**, chief regulatory officer for Siemens Smart Grid; **Frank Lacey**, vice president of regulatory and market strategy for CPower; and **Seth Frader-Thompson**, president of EnergyHub.

SEPA is an educational nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to enabling the transition to a clean energy economy by facilitating utility integration and deployment of solar, distributed energy resources, and supporting technologies onto the grid. For more information, visit [www.solarelectricpower.org](http://www.solarelectricpower.org). **NWPPA**

### Varasset, Brown & Kysar sponsor second WSU capstone project

**S**enior electrical engineering students from Washington State University Vancouver Campus (WSUV) are working closely with power utility engineers, software specialists from Varasset, and professional engineers from Brown & Kysar. This year marks the second such senior capstone project combining preventive maintenance asset

management concepts with real substation data readings. Students will collect and interpret key data, mentored by senior industry managers.

This capstone project provides industry mentoring to a group of WSUV engineering students, and practical experience with electric utilities, both in the field and the office. The goal of the WSUV capstone is to configure a streamlined asset management solution for smaller utilities. It will support transformers and major line equipment, be very simple to use, and will require minimal technical knowledge from field personnel.

Varasset is a highly configurable software system used by electric, cable, and telecommunication utilities across the U.S. For more information, visit [www.varasset.com](http://www.varasset.com).

Brown & Kysar provides engineering planning and consulting services for power utilities in the Pacific Northwest. For more information, visit [www.bki.cc](http://www.bki.cc). **NWPPA**

## GenPac introduces new TESCO products

**G**eneral Pacific recently showcased three new products that TESCO introduced in the last quarter: the RF Meter, the CT Ratio/Burden Tester, and the Test Switch Protectors.

The RF Meter is an additional tool for utilities to use with customers concerned with RF from an electric meter in an effort to diffuse customers who have misinformation. The utility can have a staff member make a visit to the customer's home and use it to measure all kinds of RF emitting devices, including the internal wall where the meter is mounted. Along with detecting transmitters coming from smart meters, they can also use it to check a microwave, baby monitors, cordless or cellular phones, and more.

TESCO's CT Ratio/Burden Tester is a measurement device for current transformers and metering people will be interested in it for sure. The CT Ratio/Burden Tester is a lightweight, portable, and highly accurate in-service test set to assist in finding lost revenue by testing the accuracy of your meter circuits. The CT Ratio/Burden Tester can help determine if there are installations errors, loose connections, incorrect ratios, resistance buildup, open CTs, or manufacturer defects.

The 7-pole test switch covers are a compliment to their already available 10-pole big brother. These are safety products; they cover exposed test switches while the technician is working on the service. With safety always being a concern while working with electrical boxes, you can depend on TESCO's Test Switch Protectors to alleviate any uncertainty. This was developed to provide temporary protection of the test switch and to address the rising concern that the terminals of the test switch are exposed while you're working in the box.

General Pacific (GenPac) is one of the leading wholesale stocking distributors in the Northwest region of the United States. For more information, visit [www.generalpacific.com](http://www.generalpacific.com).

**NWPPA**

## Jackson joins Brown & Kysar

**B**rown & Kysar has welcomed Eddie Jackson to its team as accounts director. Jackson's responsibility will be to lead the entire Accounts team in providing excellent service to all existing clients.

For most of the past two decades, Jackson previously worked as an engineering and operations manager for two different small public utilities in Tennessee. He is excited to live in the Pacific Northwest, and is looking forward to meeting the many great people who call this area home.

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



## ABB launches security initiative, unveils ballistic protection

**O**n November 18, ABB announced the official launch of a comprehensive new initiative built around addressing rising physical security and grid resiliency concerns for critical substations and power transformers. On the next day, ABB announced that it is launching AssetShield™, a new first-of-its-kind solution to shield and protect large power transformers and other substation equipment from ballistic attack. AssetShield currently meets UL-752 Ballistic Standards — Level 10 Rating.

The ABB Substation Physical Security and Resiliency Initiative will support electrical utilities and address U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) concerns around physical security for the power grid's most critical transmission and distribution substations and transformers.

Launched on November 19, AssetShield is an impact and fragmentation-protective system for substation equipment such as transformers, switchgear, circuit breakers, and capacitors. It reduces the kinetic energy of the bullets and reduces spalling after impact.

AssetShield has been tested to protect transformers and their sensitive components by withstanding various types of gunshots at varying distances.

"Absolute physical security for a substation is not practically achievable, but with AssetShield and other protective actions, it is possible to minimize the damage, prolong service, and restore service more quickly when there is an attack," said **Emily Heitman**, vice president and general manager of Commercial Operations for Power Transformers in North America.

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

by Nicole Case

# H.R. 2358: The Electric Reliability and Forest Protection Act



*In 2015, fires in Oregon and Washington alone burned over 1.5 million acres with almost 3,500 individual fires reported, requiring almost 11,000 firefighters and support personnel at its peak. However, the state of Alaska may hold the record for 2015 with over 5 million acres burned.*

**F**orest fires have become a way of life for people living in the Western United States. Fires consume millions of acres every year, and as towns and cities expand into surrounding acreage, the efforts to protect homes and businesses add to fire-fighting costs and increase public awareness of the threat of forest fires.

Statistics on fires in the West are available in the fall of each year. Last year, Western states fought forest and land fires encompassing millions of acres. Agencies estimate that the cost of firefighting in 2015 exceeded \$460 million. In 2015, fires in Oregon and Washington alone burned over 1.5 million acres with almost 3,500 individual fires reported, requiring almost 11,000 firefighters and support personnel at its peak. However, the state of Alaska may hold the record for 2015 with over five million acres burned. While fires in other Western states may not be close to Alaska's record acreage, the stories are similar: forest fires are a significant threat to our safety and the region's economy.

A good portion of summer fires result from lightning strikes; many are also man-made. In 2012, the U.S. Forest Service reported over 230 fires started by vegetation contact with power lines. Therefore, two Northwest congressmen have a plan to aid in forest fire prevention and at the same time, ensure electric reliability. U.S. Representatives Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) and Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) have introduced legislation to better coordinate management of utility rights of way in national forests and other federal land as a means of fire prevention. Improper maintenance of utility rights of way can lead to forest fires when overgrown, dead, or insect-infested trees touch or fall onto power lines. The goal of their legislation — called the Electric Reliability and Forest Protection Act — is to ensure reliable electricity service and reduce the risk of fire and fire hazards caused by inadequate vegetation management in and adjacent to power line corridors on federal lands.

Close to 90,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines exist on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. Many NWPPA members own and maintain rights of way on those federal lands, therefore the risk of

fire is real to them. Fire wrecks extraordinary damage to utility facilities causing blackouts and financial burdens in replacement costs.

Any activity by utilities towards rights-of-way maintenance needs approval from land management agencies. Frequently, gaining approval from land management agencies is fraught with delays; inconsistent and contradictory application of policies; and redundancy in reviews. In his testimony before the House Water & Power Subcommittee in May 2015, Mark Hayden, general manager of Missoula Electric Cooperative, an NWPPA member, related experiencing significant delays in approvals for maintenance of power line corridors.

“In some cases, it can take months or a year or more to obtain approvals on major operation and maintenance activities. Such approvals are necessary to assuring electricity service is not jeopardized as a result of work needed on rights of way,” he said.

Hayden also explained that failure to approve maintenance plans in a timely manner can not only result in a fire that could have been prevented, but can also bankrupt small, rural utilities.

“In fact, the risk of fires as a result of hazardous trees is all too real across the West,” said Hayden. “For example, I know of one member-owned electric cooperative in New Mexico that today faces a very real prospect of bankruptcy as a result of a massive 152,000-acre fire. This fire was caused by just one aspen tree that fell onto the power line in the co-op's Forest Service right of way. The Forest Service held this co-op responsible for the costs of fighting the fire, sending the co-op a bill totaling more than \$38.2 million. The co-op has \$20 million in liability insurance coverage.”

Utilities are also at risk to pay for fire damage caused by trees adjacent but not on rights of way even when approval to trim those trees was denied by federal land management agencies. In his testimony before the House Water & Power Subcommittee, Dave Markum, general manager of Central Electric Cooperative in Oregon, said, “Midstate Electric Cooperative in La Pine, Ore., requested the trimming of selec-

tive trees along the rights of way on USFS land for fear the trees were a hazard. This request was denied. Predictably, a tree fell into a power line, sparking a wildfire. Because the electric cooperative was held strictly liable, they had to pay firefighting costs.”

H.R. 2358 would amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to eliminate inconsistent policies in review and approval of utility rights-of-way management plans. The legislation seeks to improve the timeliness of review and approval of management plans and the consistency of policies applied to review and approval of those plans. Liability protection for utilities is also included in the legislation when a federal agency fails to allow utilities to manage vegetation on or adjacent to rights of way.

NWPPA supports H.R. 2358 as necessary for fire prevention and a timely and efficient approval process for maintenance of rights of way on federal lands. The legislation’s protection of utilities for financial integrity and reliability is long overdue. As Hayden said, “The system is broken, and H.R. 2358 as introduced by Congressmen Zinke and Schrader is a meaningful step toward fixing the problem.”

H.R. 2358 has been included in the managers’ amendment to the House Energy bill, H.R. 8. This is good news for supporters of the bill. If the managers’ amendment is approved and H.R. 8 passes the House of Representatives, the provisions of the Electric Reliability and Forest Protection Act will be an issue for a future conference between the House and the Senate on an energy bill if and when the Senate passes its version of an energy bill. NWPPA will continue to work with its member utilities to find avenues of support for H.R. 2358 in both houses of Congress. **NWPPA**

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



## FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing access to NERC data, RM15-25-000

By Bill Dearing



In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) published in the Federal Register on September 28, 2015, FERC is requesting access to the NERC-maintained Generator Availability Data System (GADS), the Transmission Availability Data System (TADS), and the relay misoperation databases citing the need to monitor reliability and assess the need for revised or new reliability standards.

Comments on the proposal are due by December 15. The NOPR has been a topic of conversation at the October NERC “Trades” meeting as well as the November NERC Member Representatives Committee meeting. NERC itself will also be sending comments to the NOPR, but the key issues raised include:

- Protecting Canadian data which is currently intermixed. FERC can’t request data from Canadian entities.
- The fact that some is voluntary and some required.
- If FERC is allowed open access with parties names associated it could create a chilling effect on data submittals that are voluntary. NERC has counter-proposed creating a data-sharing working group and aggregating the data so specific entities are not identified.
- Will the data be secure and remain confidential? If data is given to FERC, is it protected from a FOIA request?
- Was this an appropriate request within FERC’s Section 215 authority or an overreach?
- What is the immediate need that FERC is trying to address?

As noted above, NERC will be proposing an alternative method to protect the confidentiality of the data. There is also concern that supplying raw data to FERC with no industry context could lead to misinterpretation of the data. The concerns about granting the access requested in the NOPR are across the board for utilities; private power, public power, and industry trade groups (as well as individual utilities) will be weighing in on the subject. NWPPA is monitoring with others to protect the confidentiality of data and shares the concern regarding misuse of data. **NWPPA**

*Bill Dearing is the Bulk Electric System consultant for NWPPA. He can be contacted at either (509) 989-3889 or [wdearing@nwi.net](mailto:wdearing@nwi.net).*

# Ravalli Electric Cooperative teams up with the Trapper Creek Job Corp for some impressive energy savings



*Ravalli Electric Cooperative teamed up with Trapper Creek Job Corps to investigate the center's energy use and to provide general recommendations for site energy-efficiency measures. The results for the dormitory buildings (pictured above) were impressive, resulting in an annual savings of 56,321 kilowatt-hours, a savings of 48 percent over the previous year's bill.*

In 2011 the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) notified Ravalli Electric Cooperative (REC) that their wholesale power cost was going up. In turn, REC alerted its membership of the pending rate increase. So, consequently it was no surprise when REC's largest consumer of electricity, the Trapper Creek Job Corp (TCJC), contacted Ravalli Electric to learn how they could become more efficient. Not only were they interested in saving money, but Executive Order #13423 requires federal agencies to reduce their energy consumption by three percent each year to hit 30-percent reductions by 2015 from 2003 levels. As a federal agency, TCJC had to comply and wanted to start the process of improving the center's energy efficiency.

From that point on, the wheels were set in motion: Ravalli contacted its energy efficiency representative at BPA, Dan Villalobos, to get some technical assistance from BPA's

energy engineers; Villalobos put Ravalli in contact with Erik Boyer in their Spokane office; and an energy scoping audit with Boyer and TCJC staff was set up for mid-July 2011. The objective of the energy scoping audit was to investigate TCJC's energy use and to provide general recommendations for site energy-efficiency measures.

"Establishing the working relationship with Bonneville Power and Ravalli Electric Co-op has proved to be a very rewarding experience. Their assistance has brought our 50-year-old facility out of the dark ages in terms of energy efficiency, and from that we've become much more responsible facility stewards," said Daniel Gager, work programs officer for Trapper Creek Job Corps. "We've seen remarkable return of investment. We're not only improving our facilities' efficiencies, but were also saving significant taxpayer dollars, at a time when program budgets are shrinking."

So far, the outcome has been quite remarkable — through October 2015, the energy-efficiency measures installed at TCJC have decreased their annual energy consumption by more than 14 percent in the past four years.

“It’s a great project to be involved in, helping Trapper Creek achieve their energy efficiency goals,” said Mark Grotbo, general manager for Ravalli Electric Cooperative.

### Background

Trapper Creek Job Corp is located south of Darby, Mont., up the west fork of the Bitterroot River. The campus serves on average about 225 students in addition to 50 permanent and 20 temporary employees. Students have two main breaks during the year from June 28 to July 19 in the summer, and December 19 to January 5 in the winter. Most campus buildings operate during the hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The campus was originally built in the 1960s and is currently used as a Job Corps Center. Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. TCJC has 20 main buildings of significant loads with many other small outbuildings/storage structures.

Baseline monitoring completed in 2011 and 2012 indicated that the buildings with the largest energy consumption were the welding shop, food service building, gym, carpentry shop, recreation building, and the dormitories.

### Highlights of the energy efficiency projects

With the large loads identified, energy monitoring and data logging began by the end of 2011 (and continued through 2012) in the following center buildings: food service, carpentry shop, dormitories, gymnasium, education building, recreation center, and the three emergency backup generators for the food service, water, and wastewater systems.

In the spring of 2012, the energy-efficiency measures that were installed included the following: performance testing and sealing the ductwork for the forced air heating systems in the dormitories; and installation of ductless heat pumps in the student transitional houses as well as ceiling insulation.

Measurement and verification of the energy-efficiency measures installed in the dormitory buildings was impressive. The duct testing and sealing, plus ceiling insulation, for Dorm #1 showed annual savings of 56,321 kilowatt-hours (kWh), a savings of 48 percent over the previous year’s bill.



*BPA’s Erik Boyer checks the monitoring equipment on the HVAC system for the education building.*

Residence #28 of the transitional houses showed great annual savings as well. Residence #28 posted a savings of 50 percent. The prior year’s usage was 24,966 kWh compared to 12,444 kWh after the ductless heat pump was installed.

To date, Trapper Creek Job Corp has achieved over 14 percent energy savings since the project was started.

### Project overview

A review of TCJC’s five-year average showed an annual energy usage of approximately 3,200,000 kWh a year. The center had a summer peak of 125,000 kWh per month and a winter peak of around 422,000 kWh a month; their non-weather consumption averaged 135,000 kWh a month.

An energy study from 1997 and a facility study conducted in 2010-11 were used as part of the BPA Scoping Audit in late 2011. The documents helped identify the buildings to install energy-monitoring equipment and data loggers: food service, dormitories, education, recreation, carpentry, welding, gymnasium, administration, and the healthcare facility. The transitional student houses were also analyzed.

Some of the issues identified by the scoping audit included deteriorated ductwork and antiquated thermostats in the dormitories. Aging HVAC systems in the food service, education, and recreation buildings, as well as antiquated and non-functioning packaged thermal air conditioner units in the welding shop were also identified. The backup emer-

*Continued on page 28*

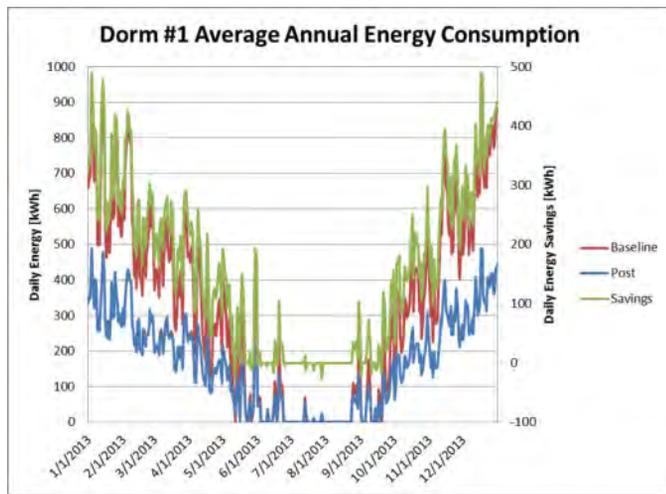
gency generators located adjacent to the food service along with the center’s water supply and wastewater systems were monitored as well.

## Energy-efficiency measures highlights

The energy monitoring of the heating system run times provided valuable information as to how the furnaces were being operated in the dormitories. The run times of the furnaces in each dormitory did not match each other. Some showed run times when the students were out on campus attending class, while others had different zones of the building off when the areas were occupied. It was also noted that center staff and students complained about comfort levels in the dorms. The energy-efficiency measures installed in the dormitories included duct sealing and repairs, air sealing, attic insulation, and the installation of Web-enabled programmable thermostats.

The energy savings for the dorms after the energy efficiency measures were installed had a simple payback of two years.

	Energy [kWh]	% of Baseline
<b>Annual Baseline Energy</b>	116,929	
<b>Annual Post Energy</b>	60,608	51.8%
<b>Energy Savings</b>	56,321	48.2%

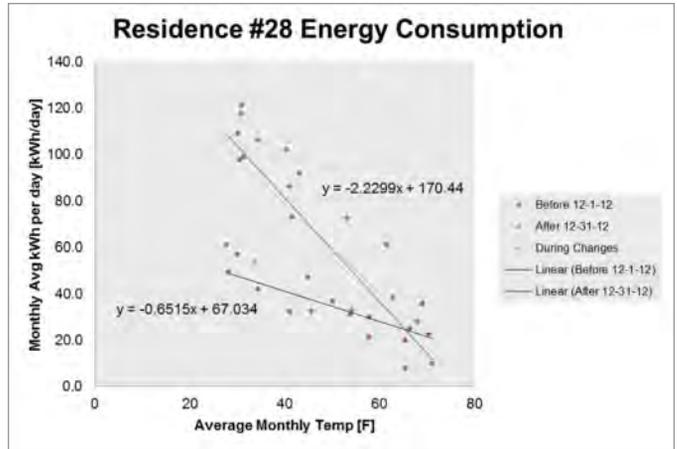


The average annual energy consumption for Dorm #1: the red line is the baseline annual energy consumption; the blue line is the post-energy consumption; and the green line is the annual energy savings.

The center has three transitional houses for students in their last semester of study; each house has four students living in it. The houses were constructed in 1967 and they have electric baseboard heat. The energy efficiency measures identified for the houses were to upgrade the attic insulation to R-49 and install a ductless heat pump in the main living area of each house.

Residence #28 achieved some very impressive annual energy savings. The year prior to the ductless heat pump

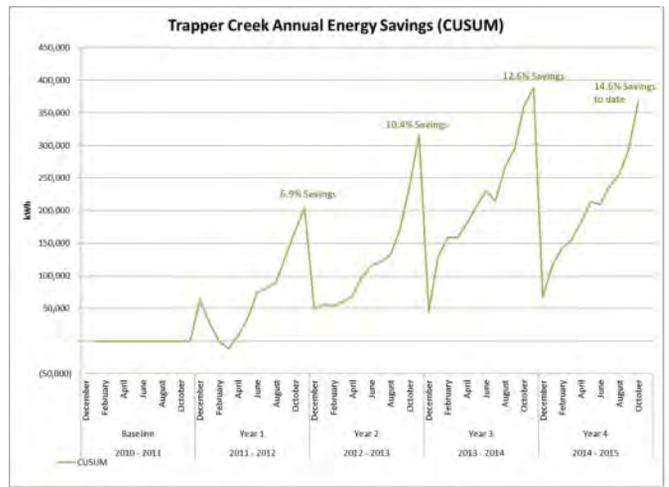
being installed, the house had an annual energy use of 24,966 kWh; the year after, the annual energy use was 12,523 kWh.



The graph shows the pre- and post-energy use for Residence #28.

Residence #28 had a one-ton ductless heat pump installed in December 2012. With the installation of the ductless heat pump, Residence #28 achieved 50-percent energy savings in the first year.

## Project savings



The graph tracks the energy savings at TCJC from 2011–2015. The cumulative energy savings for TCJC is approximately 14.6 percent. Energy savings continues to grow as other efficiency projects are completed.

Program Year	Projected Baseline Usage	Actual Usage	Energy Savings
2011-2012	2,947,021	2,743,200	203,821
2012-2013	3,030,088	2,714,400	315,688
2013-2014	3,076,287	2,688,000	388,287
2014-2015 (to date)	2,521,157	2,152,800	368,357

As 2015 comes to an end, TCJC is on its way to achieving even more energy savings. They have completed an LED retrofit of all of the center's emergency exit signs, and they have installed four commercial-grade ductless heat pumps in the education building as well as an LED lighting retrofit.

The administration and healthcare buildings had duct testing and sealing performed on their HVAC systems along with the installation of Web-enabled programmable thermostats and their attics were upgraded to R-49 insulation levels. In addition, Ravalli Electric retrofitted 38 existing security lights that had 175-watt high-pressure sodium fixtures to 50-watt LED ones.

In 2016, the recreation building's HVAC system is scheduled to have duct testing and sealing, Web-enabled programmable thermostats installed, and the attic upgraded to R-49 insulation. BPA also conducted a scoping study to look at the feasibility of installing a geothermal heat pump system to handle the center's gymnasium, which has a very antiquated forced-air electric furnace with no ventilation air capabilities to meet current building codes. The U.S. Forest Service is looking at upgrading the HVAC systems in the dormitories as well; they're considering installing heat recovery ventilators and heat pump upgrades.

"We're excited about some of our future efficiency projects that include providing better living conditions for our dormitories and replacing obsolete HVAC with a ground source heating/cooling system," said Gager.

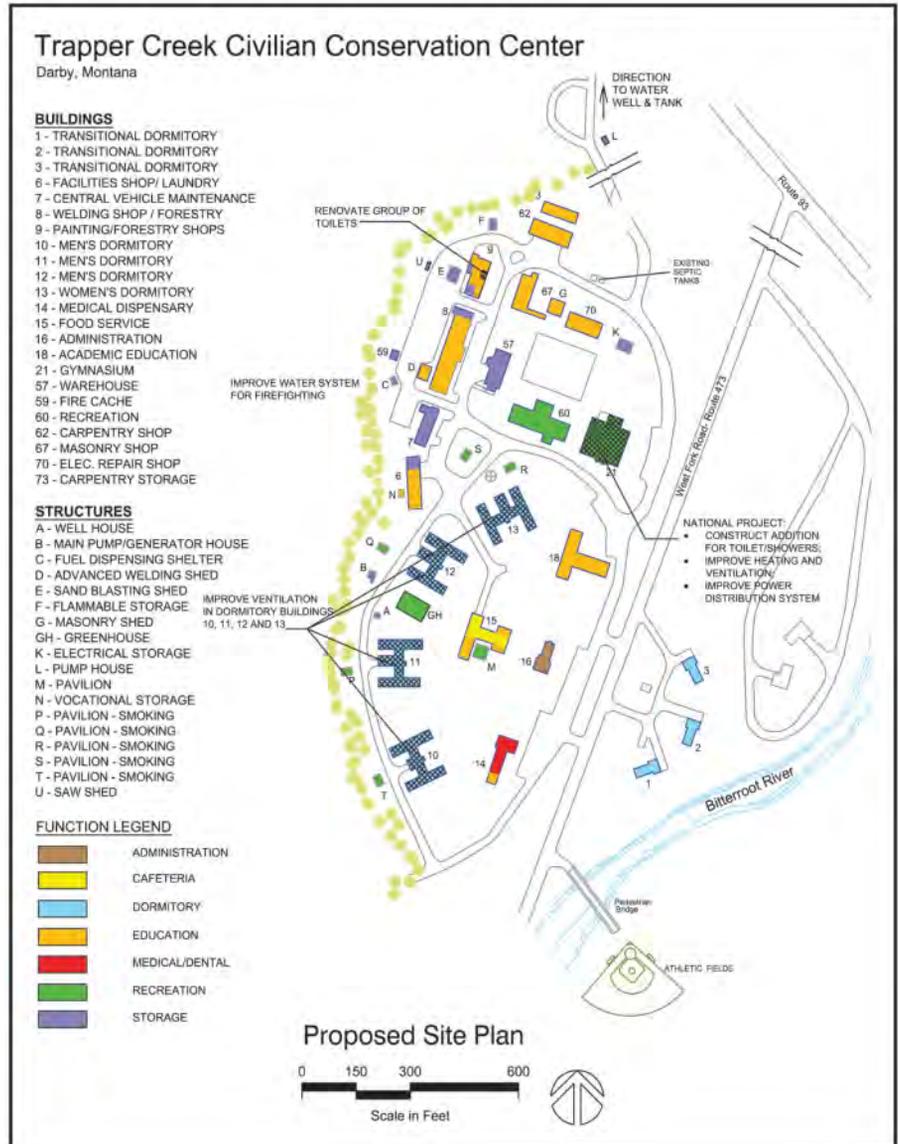
Ravalli Electric Cooperative, BPA, Trapper Creek Job Corp, and the U.S. Forest Service continue to work together on this ongoing project and are eager to see what progress lies ahead.

NWPPA

*Jim Maunder is the manager of Member Services for Ravalli Electric Cooperative in Corvallis, Mont. He can be contacted at [jmaunder@ravallielectric.com](mailto:jmaunder@ravallielectric.com).*

*"We're excited about some of our future efficiency projects that include providing better living conditions for our dormitories and replacing obsolete HVAC with a ground source heating/cooling system."*

Daniel Gager, work programs officer for Trapper Creek Job Corps



Baseline monitoring completed in 2011 and 2012 indicated that the buildings with the largest energy consumption were the welding shop, food service building, gym, carpentry shop, recreation building, and the dormitories.

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

**POSITION: Engineering Supervisor**

COMPANY: Lane Electric Cooperative (Eugene, Ore.)

SALARY: DOQ.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 23, 2015.

TO APPLY: Send application and resumé by mail to Human Resources, Lane Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 21410, Eugene, OR 97402, fax to (541) 484-7316, or email to [hrdept@laneelectric.com](mailto:hrdept@laneelectric.com).

**POSITION: Journey Lineworker**

COMPANY: McMinnville Water & Light (McMinnville, Ore.)

SALARY: Per IBEW Local 125 contract.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 23, 2015.

TO APPLY: Submit application and resumé to Human Resources, McMinnville Water & Light, P.O. Box 638, McMinnville, OR 97128. Position information and application available at [www.mc-power.com](http://www.mc-power.com).

**POSITION: Supervisor, GIS Production**

COMPANY: PacifiCorp (Portland, Ore.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 24, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.pacificorp.com/car/op/sp.html](http://www.pacificorp.com/car/op/sp.html), job #1511159.

**POSITION: Electric Program Supervisor (Finance)**

COMPANY: City of Redding (Redding, Calif.)

SALARY: \$6,884-\$10,875 monthly, DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 31, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.cityofredding.org](http://www.cityofredding.org).

**POSITION: Energy Control Dispatcher**

COMPANY: Snohomish County PUD No. 1 (Everett, Wash.)

SALARY: \$49.42 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 31, 2015.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.snopud.com](http://www.snopud.com) under Careers.

**POSITION: Electro Technician I**

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

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 31, 2015.

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

**POSITION: Senior Manager — Rates, Economics, and Energy Risk Management**

COMPANY: Snohomish County PUD No. 1 (Everett, Wash.)

SALARY: \$149,000-\$182,000 annually.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 31, 2015.

TO APPLY: Complete online application and submit cover letter and resumé at [www.snopud.com](http://www.snopud.com).

**POSITION: Chief Financial Officer**

COMPANY: Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (Portola, Calif.)

SALARY: DOE.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 31, 2015

TO APPLY: Submit resumé, cover letter, and completed PSREC application to [spowers@psrec.coop](mailto:spowers@psrec.coop) or mail to Suzanne Powers, PSREC, 73233 St. Rt. 70, Portola, CA 96122.

**POSITION: Journeyman Meterman**

COMPANY: Mason County PUD No. 3 (Shelton, Wash.)

SALARY: \$42.03 per hour.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: January 1, 2016.

TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.masonpud3.org](http://www.masonpud3.org), or call Thedra at (360) 432-5246.

## Associate Design Engineer

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To learn more about the duties and qualifications of this position, go to our website at [www.clarkpublicutilities.com](http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com) and click on Jobs.

Clark Public Utilities offers excellent benefits, an attractive wage, and company incentive programs. Resumes may be submitted to [jobs@clarkpud.com](mailto:jobs@clarkpud.com) or to Clark Public Utilities, Human Resources, P.O. Box 8900, Vancouver, WA 98668. Recruitment efforts will continue until the position is filled.

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## Electric Power Supply Dispatcher

The City of Idaho Falls, Idaho is looking for an Electric Power Supply Dispatcher for Idaho Falls Power. The electric utility is a BPA slice customer and owns and operates its own generation adjacent to Idaho Falls.

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For a full job description and to apply, please visit our website at [www.idahofallsidaho.gov](http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov) under Work > Employment > Current Jobs. Please attach a resume with your completed application.



**POSITION:** SCADA Administrator  
**COMPANY:** Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 6, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop).

**POSITION:** Generation System Engineer — Electrical  
**COMPANY:** Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. (Juneau, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 30, 2016.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.aelp.com](http://www.aelp.com).

**POSITION:** Manager of Engineering & Operations  
**COMPANY:** Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cordova, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$95,000-\$105,000 annually, DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit resumé and cover letter detailing your interest and qualifications with three professional references to Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 20, Cordova, AK 99574-0020, or email to [info@cordovaelectric.com](mailto:info@cordovaelectric.com).

**POSITION:** System Engineer  
**COMPANY:** City and Borough of Sitka (Sitka, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$98,633.60 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.cityofsitka.com](http://www.cityofsitka.com).

**POSITION:** Member Service Supervisor  
**COMPANY:** Orcas Power and Light Company (Eastsound, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com).

**POSITION:** Journeyman Lineman  
**COMPANY:** Sun River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Fairfield, Mont.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Application available at [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop).  
 Send application to Robert Anderson, Operations Manager, Sun River Electric, P.O. Box 309, Fairfield, MT 59436-0309, or email to [randerson@sunriverelectric.coop](mailto:randerson@sunriverelectric.coop). **NWPPA**

## Director of Education and Training

The Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) is recruiting for a Director of Education and Training due to the pending retirement of the current incumbent. This position reports directly to the Executive Director and is a critical decision maker for and within the Association.



The Director of Education and Training leads NWPPA's strategy and delivery of education and training for public power utilities throughout eight Western states and British Columbia. The breadth of leadership spans major conferences, workshops, instructor-led training, and blended and Web-based delivery methods.

The Education and Training team includes three professional training managers and administrative staff who work together to deliver a broad range of electric utility industry focused content based on need, cost effectiveness and quality. The target audience are Boards of Directors, Commissioners, General Managers as well as utility operations, engineers, power services, finance, customer service, human resources, communications, and administrative and other utility professionals.

The Director works closely with direct reports and an association advisory committee representative of various utility professions to understand core needs as well as emerging need for fundamentals training, upskilling and development of NWPPA's member utilities' personnel.

Competitive salary and benefits package. Actual salary depends upon experience. Visit NWPPA's website at [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org) to view full job description and requirements.

Resumés will be accepted between December 3, 2015, and January 14, 2016, and must be received by no later than January 14, 2016. Two letters of reference directly related to the job responsibilities are required.

Send a letter of interest, resumé, and reference letters in an envelope marked E&T, D to: Anita J. Decker, Executive Director, NWPPA, 9817 NE 54th Street, #200, Vancouver, WA 98662.

Electronic submittals will not be accepted. No phone calls, please.

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