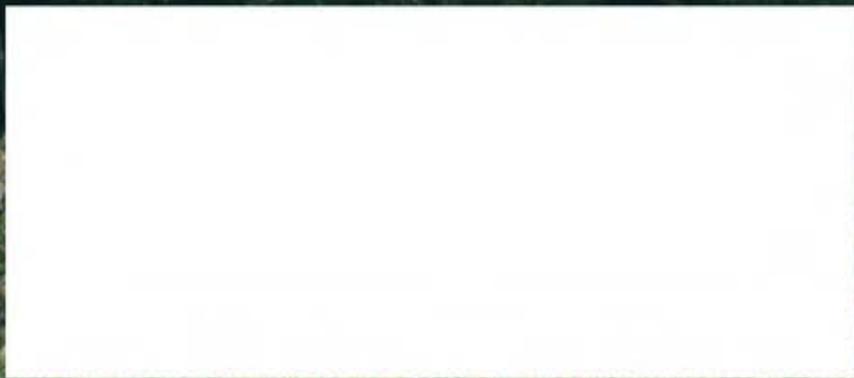
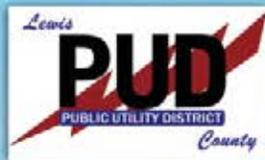


# Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**

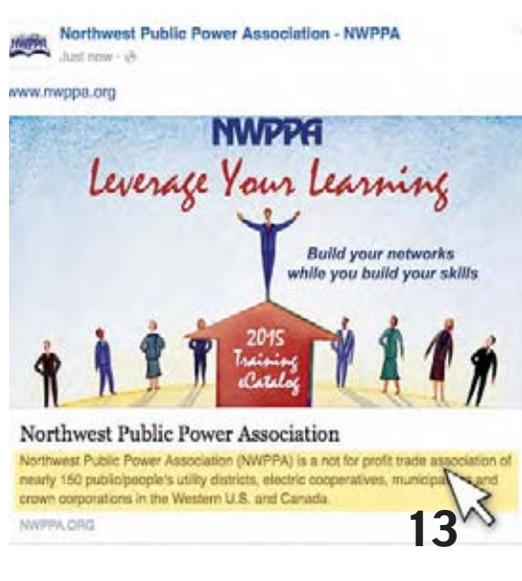
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS  
**NWPPA**  
Northwest Public Power Association  
January 2015  
Volume 69, Number 1

## Fish, resources, and utilities win with trilateral collaboration





11



13



27

**On the cover:** Riffe Lake is a major player in a long-term agreement between Tacoma Power, Lewis County PUD, and Bonneville Power Administration. The trilateral agreement will improve natural fish runs in western Washington's Cowlitz River. Two of Tacoma Power's dams, Mayfield and Mossyrock, form Riffe Lake, while Lewis County PUD's Cowlitz Falls sits upstream of Riffe Lake. Currently, a new fish collector is in the works that will help catch juvenile fish that would have otherwise been spilled into the lake.

## CONTENTS

JANUARY 2015 • VOLUME 69 • NUMBER 1

- 3 NWPPA NEWS**
- 6 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
- 11 LEGAL**
- 13 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION**
- 15 POLICY MAKING & MANAGEMENT**
- 16 REGULATORY UPDATE**
- 17 MEMBER NEWS**
- 23 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS**
- 25 WASHINGTON, D.C., REPORT**
- 27 COVER STORY**
- 31 JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

The *Bulletin* is a publication of Northwest Public Power Association, a regional organization of diverse utilities. The membership is made up of utility districts, electric cooperatives, municipalities, and crown corporations in Alaska, British Columbia, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. We are also a trade association for nearly 300 companies, individuals, and organizations affiliated with the electric power industry.

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

Editor: Debbie Kuraspediani  
Associate Editor: Brenda Dunn  
Design Layout: Glenda Waite  
Advertising: Brenda Dunn at (360) 816-1453 or [brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org)

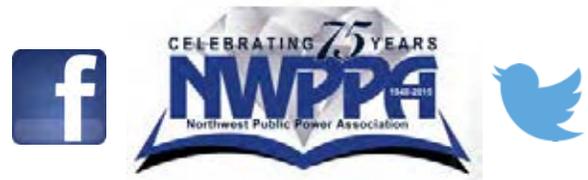
*Bulletin* (ISSN 1094-0049)

The *Bulletin* is published monthly by Northwest Public Power Association, 9817 N.E. 54th Street, Ste. 200, Vancouver, WA 98662.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Bulletin*, 9817 N.E. 54th Street, Ste. 200, Vancouver, WA 98662, (360) 254-0109, fax (360) 254-5731.

©Copyright 2015 by the Northwest Public Power Association. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

*Celebrating our past with an eye on the future*



Scan with your smart phone to view our mobile website.

# Hack Attack! examined the urgency and importance of cyber awareness and security

On December 10, some 45 general managers, board members, commissioners, and IT managers gathered in Portland for Hack Attack!, a one-day workshop that brought utility managers and policy makers together to learn about emerging cyber-security risks faced by electric utilities. Attendees also heard examples of best practices at several utilities that are keeping pace with their cyber security programs.



Owens formerly from Columbia River PUD, and Mark Hayden from Missoula Electric) was moderated by Snohomish PUD General Manager Steve Klein. The general managers talked about their roles as the cyber security sponsors, and how they created cyber awareness and best practices across the IT, operations, engineering, customer service, and finance departments. They offered the following take-aways:

“GMs and board members have to lead when it comes to safety and security in our organizations and I found the session to be very helpful in reminding us that this is not a one-time expenditure of time and the need for continued leadership from the top,” said Raft River REC General Manager Heber Carpenter. “Great job!”

During the morning, three subject matter experts discussed the current threats and efforts to mitigate those threats. All three presentations underscored the urgency in having an effective cyber security program at every utility.

Larry Karl, assistant special agent in charge (ASAC) at the FBI in Portland, gave an overview of the current types of U.S. cyber threats, including hacktivists, organized criminal groups, botnets, foreign espionage, and terrorism. He shared how the FBI is responding to these threats and how cyber threats have become a key priority for the FBI. He noted that smaller utilities can be used as a proving ground for many cyber threats by the different types of hackers.

Karl was followed by Tim Roxey, chief cyber security officer at NERC and director of the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ES-ISAC). Roxey talked about the threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences of cyber security elements as well as how ES-ISAC shares information in the electric utility industry and with other agencies in regard to events and mitigation guidance across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Lastly, Mark McKee, regional sales manager for Lockheed Martin Industrial Defender, shared the value of configuration management to automate the real-time monitoring of industrial control systems to enable early detection of threats and improve protection. He cautioned that it is no longer if you will be hacked, but when.

“I attended and, to be honest, I wasn’t sure what to expect,” said Salem Electric General Manager Terry Kelly. “But it was informative, interesting, and a little frightening. I came away with a long list of questions that I will be asking our IT manager.”

To provide examples of how some NWPPA members have approached cyber security, a panel of three general managers (Jackie Flowers from Idaho Falls Power, Kevin

- Keep your finger on the pulse of cyber activity and think about cyber security from every aspect.
- Take advantage of bringing in experts for mock exercises. Can you recover?
- Cyber security is not a one-time activity or fix; it is an ongoing improvement effort just like a safety program.
- Hold mandatory cyber trainings for all employees.
- Routinely update your disaster planning and recovery program.
- Use internal communications articles, posters, and other approaches to create awareness.
- Get a third-party assessment of your cyber security program.

“I thought the Hack Attack! session hit right on the goal to increase learnings for general managers and board members that came out of strategic planning,” said Snohomish County PUD Board President Toni Olson. “Thanks to our board members and others who made up the excellent panels.” **NWPPA**

## Don’t forget to find the !

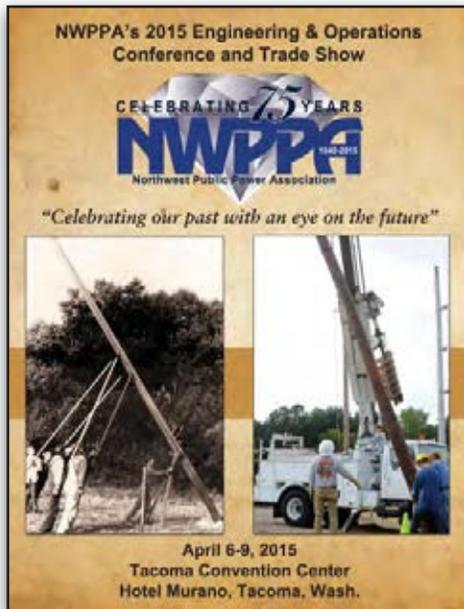
In each 2015 issue of the *Bulletin*, we will be hiding one diamond graphic (like this one ) somewhere in the magazine. For each issue, we will select a random person who has emailed the correct page and location to the associate editor at [brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org). The winner will be notified by the end of the month and receive a gift card from NWPPA. **NWPPA**

# Annual nominations are due this month

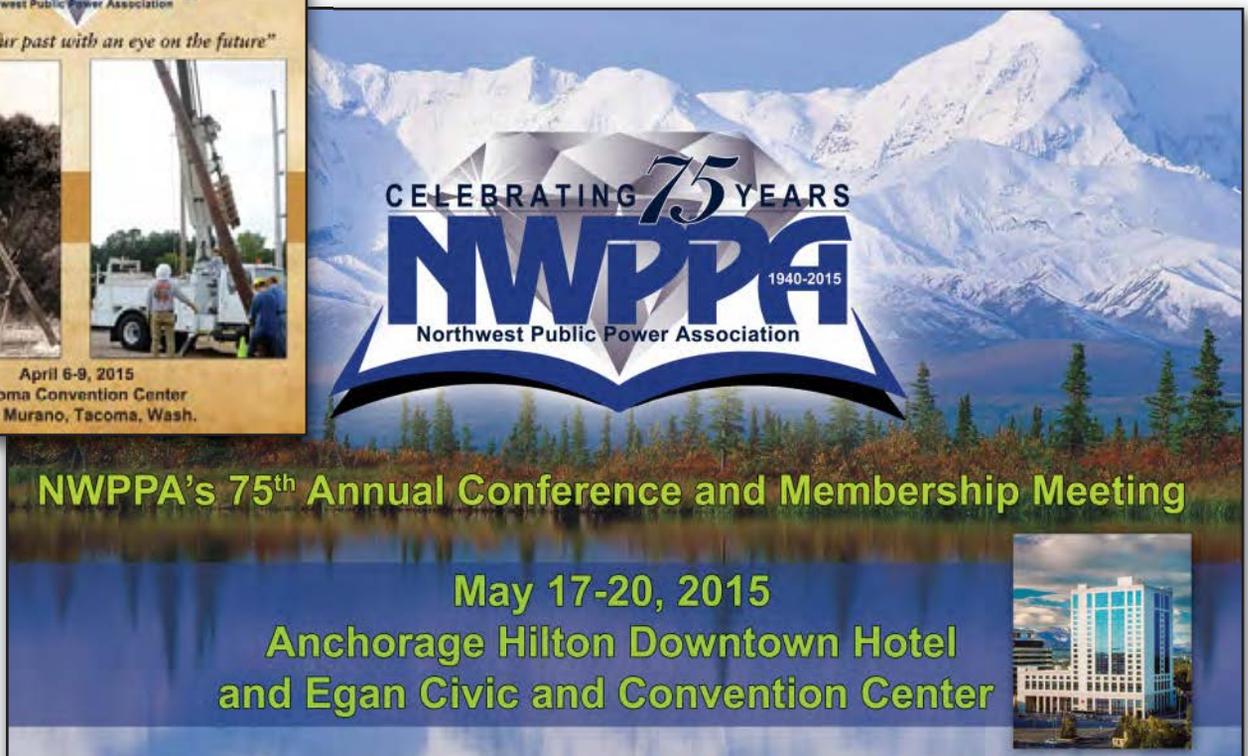
If you have not yet submitted your nominations for the 2015-2016 NWPPA Board of Trustees, 2015 annual awards, and/or 2015 resolutions, you still have a few weeks to do so. As a reminder, the due dates for each are:

- **January 29, 2015:** Submissions for any new draft resolutions or updates to the existing 2014 resolutions.
- **January 30, 2015:** Nominations for the Life Awards, Paul J. Raver Community Service Award, John M. George Public Service Award, and William “Bill” McCrorie Distinguished Service Award.
- **February 1, 2015:** Nominations for the seven vacant utility member seats and three associate member seats on the 2015-2016 NWPPA Board of Trustees. Please note that the December 2014 *Bulletin* listed four vacant utility member seats; however, due to projected retirements, three more seats will be opening up for the May 2015 election. The following is an updated list of available seats:
  - **Alaska** — One policy maker from a municipal or cooperative utility, and one general manager from a municipal or cooperative utility.
  - **Montana** — One general manager from a municipal or cooperative utility.
  - **Oregon** — One policy maker from a PUD, and one general manager from a PUD.
  - **Washington** — One policy maker from a PUD, and one general manager from a municipal.
  - **Associate Member** — One owner/CEO/manager of a distributorship, one owner/CEO/manager of a power supply provider, and one construction contractor.

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



Plan on attending both of these upcoming conferences and help us celebrate our 75 years of serving our members!



# A piece of NWPPA history: Formation and the *Bulletin*

**N**orthwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) was originally organized to mutually protect public and cooperative power systems. Nearly 75 years ago, on October 18, 1940, 17 public power leaders met in Olympia, Wash., and voted to form the Association and appoint a five-man committee to prepare the constitution. Three months later, on January 31, 1941, that constitution was adopted and the first officers were elected, including Bert Lean as the first president of the Association.



*Gus Norwood*

“The job of the Association is to act as an information clearing-house, as an observation post, as a means for better communications,” wrote Gus Norwood, NWPPA’s first executive director, in October 1950. “Two NWPPA members are 1,000 miles apart in distance but they are not isolated any longer. One of the jobs of NWPPA is to overcome the barriers of distance and to promote a feeling of common, mutual, and cooperative interest among all public and cooperative systems.”

At the beginning, the board consisted of only eight members and those members met quarterly. On December 10, 1943, NWPPA held what is believed to be its first annual meeting, a one-day event. Attendance at that first annual meeting was 53 people. The next year, the Association bumped the meetings up to two days; in 1946, the annual meeting grew to a three-day event. By the time the annual meeting was held in Portland, Ore., in 1950, attendance had skyrocketed to 290 people from 61 different utilities.

NWPPA originally focused on communication, much as it does today; however, providing training came much later. At the annual meeting in Seattle in December 1946, the board passed a resolution “authorizing the president to appoint a committee to investigate the feasibility of the Association sponsoring a publication for the information of its membership, and the promotion of public power.”

Members received the first *Bulletin* in April 1947. At that time, it was a one-page, two-sided publication with only three issues created during that first year. By January 1948, the *Bulletin* had already increased to a six-page mimeographed publication; by March 1949, when it was redesigned to be a four-page printed version vaguely similar to today’s magazine, circulation was already at 1,800.

The editor at the time, J.R. King, wrote in the inaugural issue that “one way to find out if an Association publication was feasible was to try it. This is the first trial, and, it is hoped, will be the forerunner of a regular printed publication ... its success will depend to some extent on the Association members to whom it goes. So don’t be backward with news of your utility and its people, your suggestions, and your criticisms.”

Seventy-five years after NWPPA’s formation and many incarnations later, the *Bulletin* has enjoyed the staying power of 75 years of service to public power. NWPPA



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago – 1965

EWEB Superintendent Byron Price estimated that by the year 2000, about 450,000 people in the Eugene/Springfield area will require an estimated 2.5 million kilowatts (Ore.) ... A pair of electric scissors made history when they were used for the first time for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open a new section of the Tacoma Freeway; C. A. Erdahl, director of Tacoma’s Department of Public Utilities, was on hand for the ceremony (Wash.) ... In honor of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Lincoln Electric sponsored an essay for high school seniors; the winning entry at each high school received a \$50 scholarship (Mont.).

### 25 years ago – 1990

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) signed contracts with Snohomish County PUD, Mason County PUD No. 3, and Lewis County PUD to adopt conservation measures; the projects were estimated to save six megawatts over the next five years (Wash.) ... Senior Assistant Engineer Gordon Garrison retired from Northern Lights Inc. after 34 years with the cooperative (Idaho) ... Grays Harbor PUD provided 20 solid brass markers for a centennial program in Grays Harbor County (Wash.) ... Chelan County PUD employees Bill Hansen, Chris Schwinkendorf, Mike Simpson, and Jay Wyngaard received a Good Samaritan Award from Washington Public Utility District’s Association for saving the life of co-worker Ron Williams.

### 5 years ago – 2010

Snohomish County PUD served as one of the key witnesses speaking about tidal energy before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Environment (Wash.) ... Flathead Electric Cooperative presented Plum Creek Company with a check for \$337,082 in a transaction made possible through an energy efficiency incentive program sponsored by BPA (Mont.) ... The Sacramento Municipal Utility District, along with its project partners, received \$7.32 million to study energy storage systems; the grant was one of only 16 Smart Grid Energy Storage Demonstration Grants from the DOE (Calif.).

NWPPA

# February and March 2015

Please register 30 days in advance to receive the Early Bird discount. See [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org) for more information.

### STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM — NESC & UTILITY SPECIFICATIONS

**Who Should Attend:** Staking technicians.

**Overview:** This three-day course is part of the Staking Technician Program. The NESC establishes the rules used in the design and maintenance of power systems. This course provides staking technicians with a working knowledge of the NESC and its application. The course will focus on those rules that specifically apply to distribution line design, such as grounding, overhead line clearances, overload factors, strength reduction factors, ice loading, and underground line construction.

**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### THE CUSTOMER FOCUS

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

**Overview:** This two-day course focuses on building the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to deliver outstanding customer service. Topics covered include public relations, effective listening, rapport-building strategies, conflict resolution, effective communication tools, and stress management. Participants will learn how to handle potentially unproductive interactions and how to create positive experiences for both internal and external customers.

**FEBRUARY 4-5, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

### STAKING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM — OBTAINING PERMITS

**Who Should Attend:** Staking technicians.

**Overview:** This one-and-a-half-day course is part of the Staking Technician Program. Today, property owners are more reluctant to give right-of-way easements for overhead or underground power lines. Consequently, more use is being made of existing public rights-of-way. To do this, permits must be obtained from the governing agency. This module of the staking program covers the information required on a permit; methods to set up an efficient permitting process; how good personal contacts can ease the process; and preparation of permit documents and drawings.

**FEBRUARY 5-6, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 1 — AC TRANSFORMERS, ADVANCED THEORY, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

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

**Overview:** This advanced class provides attendees with a journeyman lineman's view of AC transformers. The curriculum includes a combination of electrical theory and hands-on practice. The overall program is to teach students how transformers are used to manage and control the flow of alternating current in electrical distribution systems.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2015 — IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES — ALL 3 DAYS

**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.

**Overview:** Day 1 — *AC Transformers, Advanced Theory, and*

*Practical Application.* This advanced class provides attendees with a journeyman lineman's view of AC transformers. The curriculum includes a combination of electrical theory and hands-on practice. Day 2 — *AC System Troubleshooting.* The course will cover troubleshooting problems and what to look for in single-phase problems; how to fix three-phase problems from wrong voltages and how they occur; and equipment used to solve problems and how it works electrically. Day 3 — *Personal Protective Grounding.* This course discusses protective grounding theory, emphasizing safety and the range of acceptable currents. It also covers visual inspection of grounding systems (mats, connectors, risers, and straps); special considerations and hazards (IEEE Standard 80); and personal protective grounds.

**FEBRUARY 10-12, 2015 — IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 2 — AC SYSTEM TROUBLESHOOTING

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

**Overview:** The course will cover troubleshooting problems and what to look for in single-phase problems; how to fix three-phase problems from wrong voltages and how they occur; and equipment used to solve problems and how it works electrically. Participants will gain an understanding of single-phase and three-phase problems of all kinds; what causes ferro-resonance; emergency alternatives to field situations; the equipment and troubleshooting; and safety hazards that are of concern in shooting three-phase transformer banks and three-phase capacitor banks.

**FEBRUARY 11, 2015 — IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 3 — PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GROUNDING

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

**Overview:** This course discusses protective grounding theory, emphasizing safety and the range of acceptable currents. It also covers visual inspection of grounding systems (mats, connectors, risers, and straps); special considerations and hazards (IEEE Standard 80); and personal protective grounds, including sizing, testing, inspection, maintenance, and use.

**FEBRUARY 12, 2015 — IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

### NEW! PREPARING FOR DISTRIBUTED GENERATION IN THE NORTHWEST

**Who Should Attend:** Commissioners, general managers, and senior staff.

**Overview:** In recent years, electric utility customers have begun showing greater interest in distributed generation. Declining costs and expanding availability of on-site electric generating systems, such as roof-mounted solar photovoltaic equipment marketed and installed by third-party service providers, are causing residential and business customers to consider self-supply as an attractive alternative to relying exclusively on centrally generated power delivered via the utility grid. By preparing for distributed generation now, Northwest public power utilities can be responsive should significant numbers of their customers become interested in adopting it in the future.

**FEBRUARY 17-18, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

### PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP 1: ALL FIVE SESSIONS

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, managers, graduates of the Frontline Leadership Series, and newly appointed leadership and individual contributors.

**Overview:** Pathways to Leadership is a powerful learning experience that blends classroom training, coaching, and everyday work into one integral leadership development process. It focuses not just on what leaders learn but also how they learn it. This series of classes, online tools, templates, and application assignments enable the leader to practice and apply essential skills within the context of an actual job.

**FEBRUARY 18, 2015-MAY 4, 2016 — VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

### BILLS, BUCKS, AND BUSINESS

**Who Should Attend:** Accounting staff and any employee who wants to understand his or her personal impact on a utility's financial success.

**Overview:** This one-and-a-half-day course is based on the premise that "every employee and every task performed at the utility has an impact on the ultimate bill sent to a consumer/member." The impact of your job will be measured and evaluated; practical examples will be provided for improving favorable outcomes and minimizing those that are not as favorable. Employees will learn skills that help their system achieve financial security and long-term benefits for consumers/members.

**FEBRUARY 18-19, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #2: EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING & TRANSITIONING FROM EMPLOYEE TO FOREMAN

**Who Should Attend:** Foremen and crew leaders.

**Overview:** Day 1 — *Effective Problem Solving and Decision Making*. How do you know if your crew is performing at its best? Do you see potential for improvement but you do not know where to start? This course will provide you with tools for diagnosing your own team and matching your diagnosis to an intervention technique. Day 2 — *Transitioning from Employee to Foreman: Keys to Discipline and Delegation*. The second day is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the dynamics of workplace relationships and strategies for how to better manage those and improve relationships through an effective delegation of duties, tasks, and responsibilities.

**FEBRUARY 18-19, 2015 — ROSEVILLE, CALIF.**

### IT WORKSHOP

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

**Overview:** Cyber security continues to be a key focus of the annual IT workshops. During this workshop, attendees will hear presentations on the general manager's role in cyber security programs, how to conduct internal phishing, the issues created when employees bring their own devices (BYOD), the management of fiber optics for broadband Internet, the upcoming trend in IT/OT convergence, the complexities of managing social media, and case studies on utility cyber security breaches.

**FEBRUARY 18-20, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

### PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP SESSION 1 — LEAD YOURSELF

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, managers, graduates of Frontline Leadership, and newly appointed senior leaders.

**Overview:** Session 1 will provide a clear roadmap of the entire Pathways to Leadership learning experience. You will see how this program is specifically designed for the workplace leader within the public power electric utility industry. This three-day session will focus on the foundation of leadership by helping you to first lead yourself. Specifically, you will participate in activities, engage in discussion,

and apply tools that will enable you to know your role, know yourself, align yourself, and account for your own success.

**FEBRUARY 18-20, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAYS 1 & 2 — AC TRANSFORMERS, ADVANCED THEORY, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

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

**Overview:** This advanced two-day class provides attendees with a journeyman lineman's view of AC transformers. The curriculum includes a combination of electrical theory and hands-on practice. The overall program is to teach students how transformers are used to manage and control the flow of alternating current in electrical distribution systems. Attendees will be provided with an opportunity to work with and arrange transformers in a variety of configurations to achieve specific voltage outputs using hands-on equipment and computer simulation.

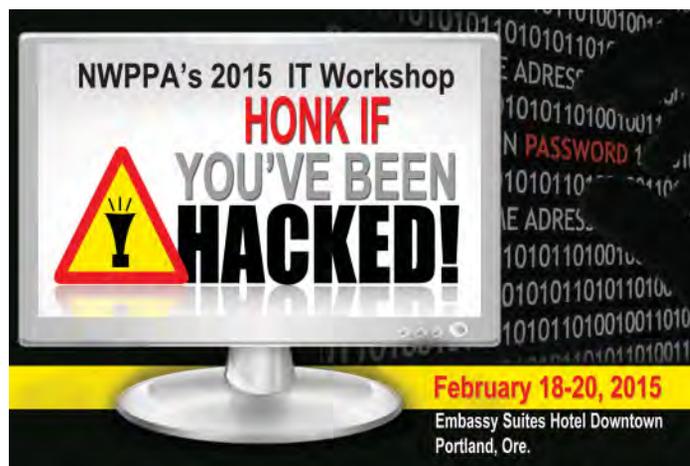
**FEBRUARY 24-25, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: ALL 3 DAYS

**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.

**Overview:** Days 1 and 2 — *AC Transformers, Advanced Theory, and Practical Application*. This advanced two-day class provides attendees with a journeyman lineman's view of AC transformers. The curriculum includes a combination of electrical theory and hands-on practice. The overall program is to teach students how transformers are used to manage and control the flow of alternating current in electrical distribution systems. Day 3 — *Personal Protective Grounding*. This course discusses protective grounding theory, emphasizing safety and the range of acceptable currents. It also covers visual inspection of grounding systems (mats, connectors, risers, and straps); special considerations and hazards (IEEE Standard 80); and personal protective grounds, including sizing, testing, inspection, maintenance, and use.

**FEBRUARY 24-26, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**



### NEW! ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR UTILITIES — PART 2

**Who Should Attend:** Chief financial officers, senior-level accounting staff, auditors, general managers/CEOs, policymakers, and legal counsel. (Please note that attendees are not required to take Part 1 before taking this class.)

*Continued on page 8*

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Overview:** Enterprise risk management (ERM) is the discipline of examining the impact of potential financial, operational, regulatory, environmental, legal, safety, and reputation risks on an organization. Implementing ERM helps utilities achieve their objectives by improving their operation and organizational effectiveness. A strong ERM program will integrate risk management with strategy, tactics, and operational processes. The instructor will help participants identify specific organizational needs and develop implementation plans that can be effectively executed within their utilities.

**FEBRUARY 25-26, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

## **FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #2: EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING & TRANSITIONING FROM EMPLOYEE TO FOREMAN**

**Who Should Attend:** Foremen and crew leaders.

**Overview:** Day 1 — *Effective Problem Solving and Decision Making*. How do you know if your crew is performing at its best? Do you see potential for improvement but you do not know where to start? This course will provide you with tools for diagnosing your own team and matching your diagnosis to an intervention technique. Through the use of case studies, class discussion, and interactive sessions, participants will address typical concerns. Day 2 — *Transitioning from Employee to Foreman: Keys to Discipline and Delegation*. The second day is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the dynamics of workplace relationships and strategies for how to better manage those and improve relationships through an effective delegation of duties, tasks, and responsibilities. Participants will gain insight into the connection between relationships and how motivation through delegation will assist you in reconciling both.

**FEBRUARY 25-26, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

## **PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP SESSION 4 — LEAD YOUR ORGANIZATION — MAXIMIZE PERFORMANCE WITH ORGANIZATIONAL TOOLS**

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, managers, graduates of the Frontline Leadership series, and newly appointed senior leaders.

**Overview:** Pathways to Leadership Session 4 will focus on leading within your organization by maximizing the performance of your team. There is a big difference between knowing how to survive in the organization and knowing how to help your organization succeed. This session will help you do both. You will learn and apply key tools for maximizing and sustaining high performance within your team; in doing so, you will make clear ties to the success of your organization.

**FEBRUARY 25-26, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

## **LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 3 — PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GROUNDING**

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

**Overview:** This course discusses protective grounding theory, emphasizing safety and the range of acceptable currents. It also covers visual inspection of grounding systems (mats, connectors, risers, and straps); special considerations and hazards (IEEE Standard 80); and personal protective grounds, including sizing, testing, inspection, maintenance, and use.

**FEBRUARY 26, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

## **NEW! ONLINE — EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WEBINAR SERIES**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who wants to improve his or her communication with others.

**Overview:** This is a series of four webinars on communicating with others, both inside and outside of your organization. Register for all four and receive a discount on pricing. March 4 — *Communicating across the Generations*; April 1 — *Internal Customer Service*;

May 6 — *Managing Angry Customers*; and June 3 — *Professionalism in Today's Workplace*.

**MARCH 4-JUNE 3, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATIONS**

## **NEW! ONLINE — COMMUNICATING ACROSS THE GENERATIONS**

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who wants to improve his or her communication with others, both within the workplace and with external customers and members.

**Overview:** Attend this 90-minute webinar and increase your understanding of generations outside your own. As a result, gain communication strategies that will improve the level of teamwork and collaboration in your workplace as well as with your customers and members. As a result of attending this webinar, you will be able to: communicate more effectively regardless of generational differences; evaluate your own generational obstacles to collaboration with others; describe effective motivation techniques for individuals from different generations; and prepare yourself to focus on effective communication, teamwork, productivity, and civility rather than generational stereotypes.

**MARCH 4, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

## **NEW! ONLINE — THE ART & SCIENCE OF NEGOTIATIONS WEBINAR SERIES**

**Who Should Attend:** General managers, labor relations managers, members of collective bargaining teams, HR professionals, labor relations professionals, and anyone who wants to truly understand negotiations from beginning to end.

**Overview:** This is a series of three webinars on how to effectively move through the stages of the negotiation process. Attend just one webinar or attend all three to get a discounted price. March 5 — *Negotiations: Preparing for Success*; March 12 — *Negotiations Boot Camp*; and March 19 — *Negotiations: Closing the Deal*.

**MARCH 5, 12, & 19, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATIONS**

## **NEW! ONLINE — NEGOTIATIONS: PREPARING FOR SUCCESS**

**Who Should Attend:** General managers, labor relations managers, members of collective bargaining teams, HR professionals, labor relations professionals, and anyone who wants to truly understand negotiations from beginning to end.

**Overview:** Preparation is mandatory for success, especially at the bargaining table. This first of three segments covers both the big and little things that, with a bit of preparation, can make for a smoother and more successful collective bargaining experience. The instructor will cover a wide range of preparation activities, from selecting and training your negotiating team members, planning, facility selection, and records maintenance; to developing and vetting proposals, maintaining communication, and establishing ground rules.

**MARCH 5, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

## **ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEMS OPERATIONS**

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

**Overview:** This popular two-day course presents a clear understanding of the technical heartbeat of the utility by providing employees with a comprehensive understanding of electric utility system operations, including generation (fossil fuel, hydro, and nuclear generation), transmission, and distribution (down to 120v/240v residential connections). You will learn how all key pieces of equipment in the

system are built, how the equipment operates, and how the equipment functions in the overall operations of a utility system. The course assumes no electrical background and builds on the basics to provide a comprehensive understanding of the equipment and operation of the electric utility system.

**MARCH 10-11, 2015 — ROSEVILLE, CALIF.**

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

**Who Should Attend:** Newly appointed operations managers, line superintendents, or those who have leadership potential.

**Overview:** This two-day course will provide you with the tools and knowledge that will add to your current operational skills and abilities to succeed as you take on additional responsibilities. It is highly recommended that you have completed either the Foreman Leadership series or the Front Line Leadership series. Day 1 is split into two sections: *Developing Your Workforce* and *Building on Existing Leadership Skills to Get Results*. The morning portion is devoted to the key skills associated with growing a department into one that identifies, builds, and plans for success. By understanding and employing these skills, the probability of success for oneself, ones employees, and the organization is increased. Day 2, *Employment Law and Basic Human Resource Workforce Management*, is designed to give you the basic employment law and workforce management information you need as a new manager to develop your team. Even though you may not be in human resources, you are a critical part of your utility's first line of defense in ensuring that the utility complies with applicable employment laws, including the ones that require you to treat workers fairly.

**MARCH 10-11, 2015 — ROSEVILLE, CALIF.**

### **DIVERSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS**

**Who Should Attend:** Customer service professionals and any others who need to communicate effectively with customers and members.

**Overview:** In this two-day session, you will use a special assessment tool to identify your own communication style. Based on that information, you will learn how your style both helps and hinders your interaction with customers. During this course, you will look at a variety of communication styles and learn how best to interact with the varying styles. You will also look at generational communications and learn how to communicate effectively with a variety of age groups.

**MARCH 11-12, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

### **THE CUSTOMER FOCUS**

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

**Overview:** This two-day course focuses on building the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to deliver outstanding customer service. Topics covered include public relations, effective listening, rapport-building strategies, conflict resolution, effective communication tools, and stress management. Participants will learn how to handle potentially unproductive interactions and how to create positive experiences for both internal and external customers.

**MARCH 16-17, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: ALL FOUR DAYS**

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

**Overview:** This is a four-day series of classes that provides utility-specific information directed toward administrative assistants and executive secretaries who want to become more effective in manag-

ing their tasks and in communicating with others. By registering for all four classes, you will receive \$100 off the total registration (\$25 off each of the regular daily rates). Day 1 — *Organizational Dynamics, Teams, and Diversity*; Day 2 — *Project Management*; Day 3 — *Getting Support for Your Ideas and Presentation Skills*; and Day 4 — *Performance Management, Self-Appraisals, and Goal Setting*.

**MARCH 17-20, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 1 — ORGANIZATIONAL DYNAMICS, TEAMS, AND DIVERSITY**

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

**Overview:** This one-day course serves as an overview of basic business organization principles, including structure and operation. This class is designed to assist participants in learning the skills of being an effective team builder, member, and leader.

**MARCH 17, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 2 — PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

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

**Overview:** This one-day class is designed for executive and administrative assistants as well as other administrative professionals with responsibility for projects. The training session will provide valuable information on how to be successful in the areas of project scheduling, budgeting, and planning. Participants will learn how to understand a project cycle and develop one that works. In addition, the seminar will provide participants with the confidence to take on projects from conception to completion.

**MARCH 18, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

### **TELEPHONE EXCELLENCE**

**Who Should Attend:** Customer service professionals and others who work with customers by phone.

**Overview:** This class focuses specifically on working with your customers by phone. During this session, you will identify what is most important about your skills on the phone and focus on ways to engage your customer within the first few seconds and throughout the call. It will also give you skills that will help you with your telephone etiquette and the way in which you phrase your responses. The instructor will take you through various scenarios as examples of how to handle issues that come up during phone conversations. In the end, you will gain some great skills that will help you become a telephone customer service pro.

**MARCH 18-19, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 3 — GETTING SUPPORT FOR IDEAS/PRESENTATION SKILLS**

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

**Overview:** This course will build specific skills that help attendees explain and gain support for ideas which may entail tough decisions and/or complicated or unpopular policies or changes. Skills covered will include how to state the purpose and main point of a message; how to present points to aid understanding while checking for understanding and reactions; how to summarize main points; and how to handle reactions to what is presented. One-on-one interactions as well as skills for presenting ideas to a group will be covered.

**MARCH 19, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

*Continued on page 10*

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW! ONLINE — NEGOTIATIONS: CLOSING THE DEAL

**Who Should Attend:** General managers, labor relations managers, members of collective bargaining teams, HR professionals, labor relations professionals, and anyone who wants to truly understand negotiations from the ground up.

**Overview:** In this final webinar of a three-part series, attendees will learn some best practices for avoiding common unfair labor practices (ULPs). The instructor will cover many of the issues involved with impasses, bundling/packaging, mediation challenges, end runs, and management team solidarity.

**MARCH 19, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 3: DAY 4 — PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT, SELF APPRAISALS, AND GOAL SETTING

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

**Overview:** This course will build specific skills that help attendees explain and gain support for ideas which may entail tough decisions and/or complicated or unpopular policies or changes. Skills covered will include how to state the purpose and main point of a message;

how to present points to aid understanding while checking for understanding and reactions; how to summarize main points; and how to handle reactions to what is presented. One-on-one interactions as well as skills for presenting ideas to a group will be covered. Attendees will leave with a process that will lessen stage fright through a series of steps that will help them organize, prepare, and present their ideas.

**MARCH 20, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

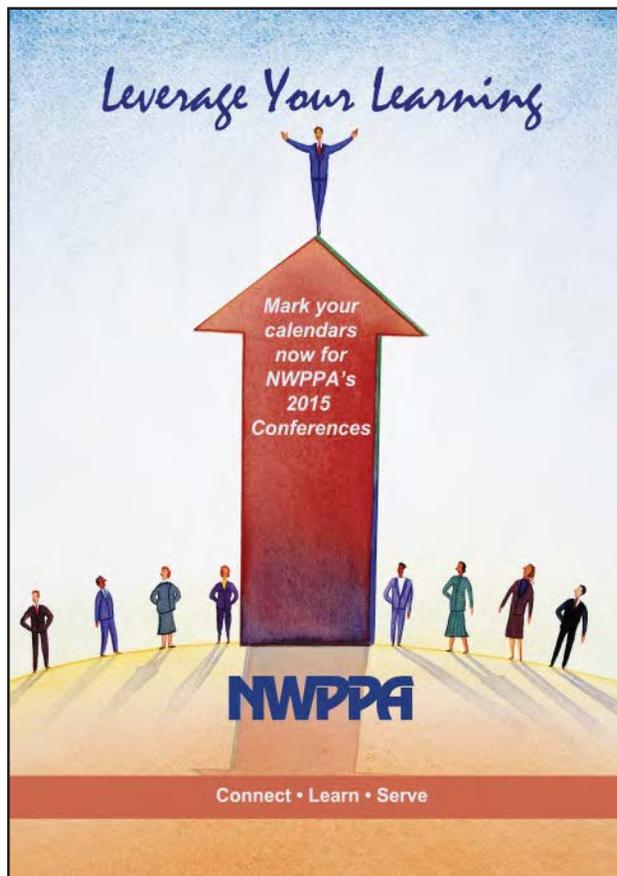
### FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP #1: SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Who Should Attend:** Front line supervisors and managers, and those front line employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.

**Overview:** This is the first in a series of four sessions leading to a Credential in Front Line Leadership from NWPPA; it is also the prerequisite for *Front Line Leadership Session #3 — Personalities & Attitudes in the Workplace*. Participants will be introduced to situational leadership as taught by the Ken Blanchard Companies and will evaluate their own leadership styles through a self-evaluation. They will learn a common vocabulary for leadership and understand the differences between successful and effective leadership.

**MARCH 25-26, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH. NWPPA**

**Mark your calendars now and plan on attending these conferences in 2015!**



## NWPPA Conferences in 2015

### NWPPA Engineering & Operations Conference and Trade Show

April 6-9, 2015  
Tacoma, Wash.

### NWPPA Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

May 17-20, 2015  
Anchorage, Alaska

### Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC)

September 13-16, 2015  
Lake Tahoe, Nev.

### APA Alaska Electric Utility Conference (AEUC) and Trade Show

October 26-29, 2015  
Anchorage, Alaska

For more information on these and other events, go to [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org).

by Richard Lorenz

## Government tort claim caps being put to the test in Oregon case

In 2009, a family from Southern Oregon brought their nine-month-old infant to the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) for surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his liver. The surgery was unsuccessful and resulted in both life-threatening and permanent injuries to the young patient. He was ultimately transferred to Stanford University Medical Center where, fortunately, doctors were able to save his life. The medical bills incurred by the family were in excess of \$4 million.

OHSU subsequently admitted liability for causing the child's injuries. OHSU released a statement saying that "[t]his is one of the rare circumstances in which an error was made during surgery. OHSU has admitted and regrets that error and the problems caused the child and family." The family later filed a lawsuit seeking to recover \$32 million from OHSU. A jury awarded the family \$12 million, of which \$4.1 million was for past medical expenses, \$1.9 was for future medical needs, and \$6 million was for pain and suffering. While this may seem like a just outcome, given that OHSU had admitted its liability, the jury award was far from the end of the case.

Like many consumer-owned utilities throughout the Pacific Northwest, OHSU is a "public body" for purposes of a state statute limiting the government's liability for tort claims. Specifically, the Oregon Tort Claims Act (OTCA), as amended in 2009, puts a cap of \$3 million on any tort claim that may be awarded against the state. Lower caps apply to claims against local public bodies, as distinguished from the state. Thus, OHSU argued that the \$12 million jury verdict must be capped at \$3 million. The trial court



*The legal issue now pending before the Oregon Supreme Court is one that will directly affect every consumer-owned utility in Oregon that is also a public body. It also indirectly affects consumer-owned utilities outside of Oregon as most states have similar statutory caps on tort claims against public bodies.*

judge rejected OHSU's argument, ruling that the application of the liability cap in this case would violate the Oregon Constitution and is therefore unenforceable. OHSU appealed the judge's decision to the Oregon Supreme Court, which heard arguments on the case this past November.

The legal issue now pending before the Oregon Supreme Court is one that will directly affect every consumer-owned utility in Oregon that is also a public body. It also indirectly affects consumer-owned utilities outside of Oregon as most states have similar statutory caps on tort claims against public bodies. The origins of the legal dispute stem from the long-standing legal doctrine of sovereign immunity. This legal doctrine holds that the government itself is immune from civil liability. It is also known by the more colorful colloquialism that "the king can do no wrong."

*Continued on page 12*



*But as the lawyers for OHSU assert, finding in the plaintiff's favor in this case would mean nothing less than nullifying the cap on tort remedies for all public bodies in the state. And that should be cause for concern.*

But the sovereign immunity doctrine also acknowledges that the government may, by statute, allow itself to be sued. For example, Congress passed the Tucker Act in 1887, which is a limited waiver of sovereign immunity with respect to certain civil actions arising out of a contract to which the federal government is a party. In 1946, Congress passed the Federal Tort Claims Act, which is a limited waiver sovereign immunity with respect to tort claims. Most state legislatures have followed suit by enacting statutes that waive, to various degrees, the sovereign immunity that would otherwise bar such lawsuits against the state itself, as well as other public bodies of the state. However, the statutes granting such waivers of sovereign immunity are seldom absolute, and in many cases the tradeoff for plaintiffs is a cap on the potential liability of the public body.

In the case now pending before the Oregon Supreme Court, lawyers for OHSU and other public bodies have argued in defense of the statutory cap on tort damages. The argument boils down to two main points. First, because the Oregon legislature is under no obligation to waive the state's tort immunity in the first place, then it must have retained the authority to put conditions and limitations on any waiver that it chooses to allow. Second, exposing public bodies across the state to uncapped tort liability risks financial catastrophe and would inevitably cause such public bodies to limit essential services that carry potential tort liabilities. This argument applies not only to liver surgeries on

infants, but also to things such as the provision of police service, the construction of public works, and — yes — owning and operating an electric distribution system.

Lawyers for the family, on the other hand, argue that the statutory cap on OHSU's tort liability violates the Oregon Constitution. It is a general legal principle that, where they are in conflict with each other, statutes must yield to the provisions of the state and federal constitutions. Article 1, Section 10 of the Oregon Constitution is known as the "Remedies Clause." This clause provides, in pertinent part, that "every man shall have remedy by due course of law for injury done him in his person, property, or reputation." In prior cases, the Oregon Supreme Court held that the Remedies Clause is not violated by statutory limitations on damages so long as the plaintiff still has access to a "substantial" remedy. Thus, the legal question now before the Oregon Supreme Court is whether capping a \$12 million jury verdict at \$3 million deprives the plaintiff of a "substantial" remedy.

In my opinion, the legal question before the Court should be an easy one. There is no question that a \$3 million remedy is "substantial." Nor should there be any question that the state may grant only a limited waiver of its sovereign immunity. The plaintiff's argument is, in essence, that if the state elects to waive its sovereign immunity and open itself up to tort remedies, then it must do so unconditionally or else it violates the Remedies Clause. I do not find this argument compelling because, as stated above, the state is under no obligation to waive its sovereign immunity in the first place.

Nevertheless, public bodies both inside and outside of Oregon should be wary of this case. Although the plaintiff's legal theories should be easily rejected, the plaintiff himself will not be so easily rejected. There is another legal colloquialism: "Bad facts make bad law." This case is an example of that. The Oregon Supreme Court will encounter an extremely sympathetic plaintiff who has been gravely harmed by a defendant who has admitted liability. Further, by all accounts, the \$3 million remedy will not even cover the plaintiff's past medical expenses — let alone future medical costs, and pain and suffering. Thus, the court will be sorely tempted, as we all would be, to search high and low for some basis in the law that would allow it to find in the plaintiff's favor. But as the lawyers for OHSU assert, finding in the plaintiff's favor in this case would mean nothing less than nullifying the cap on tort remedies for all public bodies in the state. And that should be cause for concern. **NWPPA**

*Richard Lorenz is with Cable Huston Benedict Haagenes & Lloyd LLP, a full-service law firm located in Portland, Ore. He can be contacted at [rlorenz@cablehuston.com](mailto:rlorenz@cablehuston.com).*

by Megan McCoy-Noe

## Go native

### (and other ways to rise your posts on Facebook's News Feed)

Every time you visit Facebook, brace yourself for an average of 1,500 posts from friends and brands you follow. News Feed culls posts deemed unimportant; on average, only 300 out of 1,500 posts make the cut.

#### What does this mean for brands?

In 2012, Facebook told us we reach about 16 percent of fans; however, in 2014, advertising thought leader Ogilvy found organic reach dropped to 6 percent. This means that it is more important than ever to have a budget to advertise key posts.

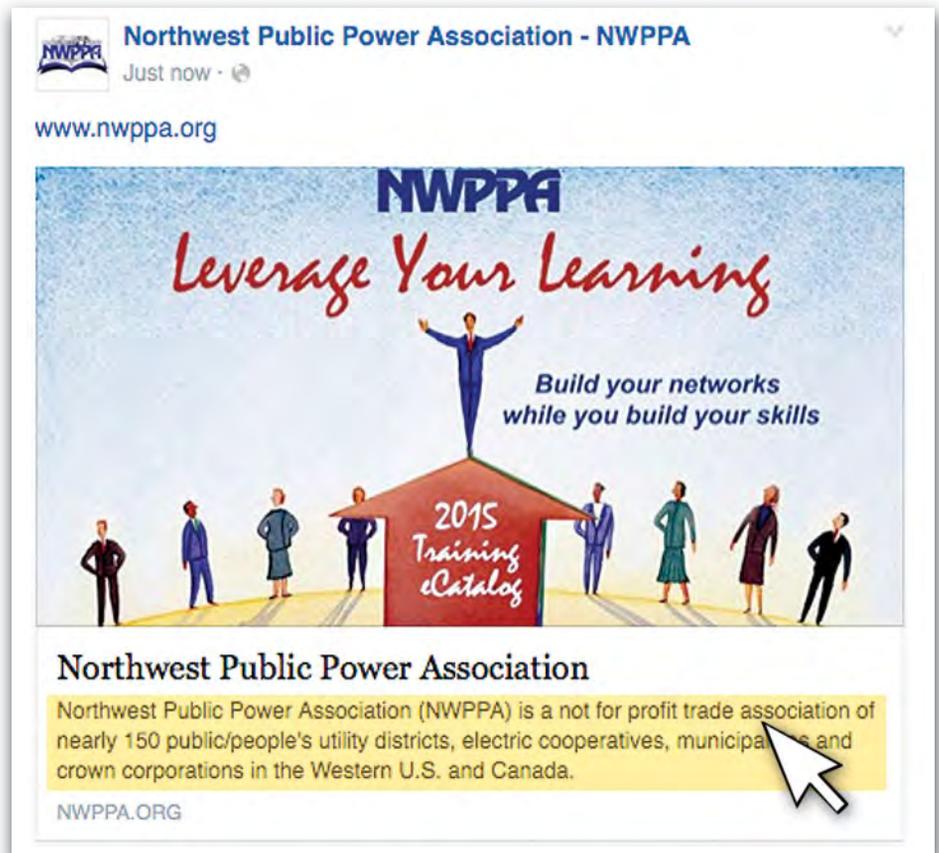
Is organic (i.e. free) posting dead? No. If your post engages your fans quickly and offers value, it rises in News Feed. Utilities will see what I mean if they're ever hit by an extended outage. But it is much harder to reach current fans, let alone attract new "likes."

#### EdgeRank evolves into News Feed

An algorithm ( $\sum e$  edges Ue We De) used to decide which posts are seen first on Facebook. The formula, Edge Rank, balanced three factors:

1. **Affinity (U):** The relationship between you and the page/person.
2. **Weight (W):** The type of content and action taken. A post with a photo weighs more than a text-only status update.
3. **Time decay (D):** How new the content is relative to how often you check your feed.

This formula has now been replaced by thousands of factors, dubbed News Feed.



When you paste a link into a post, an automatically generated image with text appears. If you want a different image, click on "Upload Image." Don't like the native link headline or copy? Hover over the text (highlighted) and click to edit.

#### News Feed 101

There are a few ways to help your organic reach rank higher on News Feed without paying to boost posts. For example:

- **Go native.** How you share links impacts your reach. When you put a link into a status, a preview automatically appears below your posts. This is called native link formatting. There's

an image preview (484px by 252px), a title, and short description. Some folks place links inside photo captions or in a status update without a preview. Facebook wants you to show as much information about a link as possible before driving fans there, so native links shared with a preview rise in News Feed.

Continued on page 14

- **Avoid duds.** In an effort to squash ad-forward content links (nicknamed “click-baiting”), News Feed measures how quickly you return to Facebook after clicking a link. If fans click a link then immediately return to Facebook, your post visibility drops. Solution? Only share links to content fans will spend time viewing. While you’re at it, let fans know what to expect when they click the link.
- **Perfect timing.** Folks tend to look at Facebook after work or first thing in the morning. Now it’s even more important for your posts to appear at the right

time. News Feed not only lends weight to a post with a lot of comments and shares, but the algorithm watches how quickly people engage with a post.

### Other News Feed elements:

- **Stories that go bump in the night.** Sometimes a post takes a little longer to grab attention. If over time many people engage with a post — even an older post — it gets a “bump.” The bumping factor of News Feed pushes older, highly engaging posts higher in the feed.

- **Last actor.** Who would you rather hear from: some one you dated years ago or your spouse? Facebook bases looks at your last 50 interactions and gives posts by those friends and brands a higher place in News Feed.

Want the inside track on News Feed changes? Facebook lists updates at [newsroom.fb.com/news/category/news-feed-fyi/](https://newsroom.fb.com/news/category/news-feed-fyi/). **NWPPA**

*Megan McKoy-Noe, CCC is the content marketing and development manager at Ruralite Services. She can be reached at [meganm@ruralite.org](mailto:meganm@ruralite.org).*



## 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.



by Ian Cope

# Grays Harbor PUD employees author their vision of the future

In July 2014, the Grays Harbor PUD Board of Commissioners adopted a strategic plan, outlining a vision of the future and the goals the PUD hoped to accomplish. But this was not like strategic plans produced by other businesses across the country. Rather than a top-down approach authored by professional planners or management, this plan was penned by the employees of Grays Harbor PUD.

"In creating a strategic plan, many businesses and agencies go outside of the company to find solutions for the future. But that is not the only option," said Board of Commissioners President Russ Skolrood. "When it comes to outlining a vision for the future, sometimes the best way to do it is to tap the wealth of knowledge that you have under your own roof."

"It's a milestone moment for the PUD, but what makes me the most proud is that it was created by our employees," said General Manager Dave Ward.

In February 2014, Grays Harbor PUD's Senior Leadership Team decided on six areas of focus for the foundation of the PUD's five-year plan: customers; finance; employees; safety and reliability; process and performance improvements; and stewardship. Employee groups were created to identify goals for each of the groups and determine the best methods to reach those goals.

"I was really excited and liked the idea of being a part of the planning. People can better relate to a plan like this when they know they were part of its creation," said Process and Performance Team Lead Katy Williamsen. "People really appreciated having their opinions valued and being asked to participate."

Every department within the PUD took part in the creation of the plan, including Customer Service, Administration, Operations, Engineering, and Dispatch. The diverse makeup of the teams helped provide one of the most important aspects of the strategic plan: a broad vision, employing the opinions of over one-third of the PUD staff.

"Who can better identify the strengths and weaknesses of an organization than the people who walk in the doors every day to work?" asked Ward. "Who has a better relationship with the customers and hears firsthand what they would like to see? The people who interact with them every day."

"I wanted my team to be made up of members of as many employee groups as possible and those who were respected and worked well with others in their department," said Employee Team Lead Alice King. "It's a large organization and often different departments don't work together regularly. We had to bridge those gaps to make sure every department had a say and in return, the group members could report back to their colleagues."

Over a series of meetings, the employee groups identified the strengths and weaknesses within their specific areas and

the opportunities and threats that they posed. This was followed by the setting of five-year

goals for each area and the steps that were needed to attain them. Improved internal and external communications, responsible budgeting, employee development, and better asset management; these were just a few of the areas that PUD employees identified as high-priority targets that will improve the PUD both for its customers and its employees.

In addition to identifying the needs and goals of individual areas, the planning process also highlighted aspects of the PUD culture that needed to be emphasized or improved. Improved internal and external communications, succession planning, and accountability were listed as goals by multiple groups, signaling a need to address those areas.

"There was a time when PUD departments did not communicate very well with each other. That wasn't good for the PUD and it certainly wasn't good for our customers," said Rob Evans, who worked with the customers-focused group. "I can already see these groups starting to work with each other and share knowledge. It will take time, but communication and teamwork are getting better."

Now approved by the Grays Harbor PUD Board of Commissioners, the strategic plan will be reviewed quarterly by the team leads and staff members responsible for implementation. The goal is to keep the plan from turning into "just a document" and instead ensure its existence as an adaptive strategy; one that can be updated as the needs of the PUD change in the coming years.

Earlier in 2014, the PUD laid out its mission statement in 12 simple yet powerful words: "Serve our community with high-value utility services at the lowest practical cost." Ward believes they now have the plan in place to help achieve that mission.

"I can't begin to tell you how pleased I was to see the people who work at the Grays Harbor PUD sink their teeth into this project and pour their hearts and minds into its creation," said Ward. "It was authored by the people who are charged with making it successful, adding a level of principal and ownership to this milestone moment, a moment that every employee and customer of the Grays Harbor PUD can be proud of." **NWPPA**

*Ian Cope is the communications and government relations director at Grays Harbor PUD in Aberdeen, Wash. He can be contacted at [icope@ghpud.org](mailto:icope@ghpud.org) or (360) 538-6232.*



# A kinder, gentler NERC and WECC in the works?

Over the past several years, at the direction of NERC CEO Gerry Cauley, NERC and the regional entities (REs), including WECC, have been working to re-tailor compliance monitoring and enforcement programs from a one-size-fits-all to a risk-based model. The focus is changing to monitoring standards and potential problems that can really affect the Bulk Electric System (BES), and finding ways to handle paperwork and other lesser violations through a variety of different means that are even more expedited than the current find-fix-and-track method.

Before looking at the various programs being rolled out, an important key is also the change in the BES definition that NWPPA has been working on for many years. Those changes were finally effective last July and, along with a favorable court decision on Southern Louisiana Electric Cooperative's deregistration case, have allowed the "de-activation" of 194 registered functions and complete removal of 52 entities from the compliance registry in the WECC area.

NERC has launched a Risk-Based Registration initiative to use the new definition and changes to really evaluate whether entities pose a risk to the BES. In addition to some entities' complete removal as a registered entity, NERC is working to create "sub-lists" of standards that apply to smaller entities. The plan carves out a registration category for distribution providers (DPs) that are registered only because they have under-frequency load-shedding equipment on their system. The new criteria raise the megawatt threshold for registration to 75 megawatts (equal to that for generation facilities), allow one-time attestations for audit, and increase the clarity around what is a "material impact" to the BES. WECC has picked up on this effort and has begun to change many former tabletop audits to an enhanced self-certification process for smaller entities.

In 2015, NERC and the REs, such as WECC, will be rolling out the following major program change for audits as well as two new options to handle paperwork and low-impact violations:

- **The Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI)** will ultimately reduce the scope and labor intensity for on-site audits. The RE evaluates an entity's previous audit record, its internal compliance program (usually via a questionnaire by phone), and focuses a reduced scope audit only on the standards applying to that entity that are real reliability issues. It provides the RE with monitoring and enforcement flexibility that ultimately reduce the manpower requirements at both the RE and the entity after the up-front work is done. There has been some concern that this program is useful only for the larger utilities; however, a pilot conducted in Texas with a smaller utility showed

promise in reducing the audit scope and manpower requirements. WECC intends to roll this out in the third and fourth quarters of 2015.

- **Compliance exceptions** is a new option that provides the REs with enhanced discretion to deal with low-risk violations. Violations handled under this are not sent through the normal compliance routine, but are instead just reported to NERC and FERC. These are low-risk violations that have a zero penalty and a mitigation plan that is either already complete or will be within six months.
- **Self-logging** is the last new program that has been piloted in 2014 and will be launched more fully in 2015. This is again at the discretion of the RE for entities with strong internal compliance programs and allows the entity to "self-log" lower-risk violations. These are then also reported to NERC and FERC in a non-public fashion. Multiple violations of the same standards and just too many violations could result in the RE canceling the program for that entity.

Lastly, NERC is also making a major effort to ensure a smooth roll out of the new Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Version 5 standards that it will begin phasing in during 2015. NERC has conducted webinars and is training auditors in the regions so that everyone knows what is expected and has a higher chance of being compliant from day one. Standards violations in the WECC area have been steadily decreasing over time, and more and more violations reach WECC via self-reports and during self-certifications rather than through an audit. While WECC expects a slight uptick in violations with CIP V5, there is hope with the training that it will not be the bow-wave of violations that has accompanied previous new standard roll-outs. The focus of both NERC and WECC is gradually moving from "I got you" to "How can I help you be compliant?"; this, along with the risk-based focus, is a welcome change which should help reduce the compliance burden in the future.

NWPPA

*Bill Dearing is NWPPA's regulatory consultant and owner of Dearing Consulting in Wenatchee, Wash. He can be contacted at [wdearing@nwi.net](mailto:wdearing@nwi.net).*

### Nason Creek facility opens



Employees, commissioners, and officials took a tour of the Nason Creek Acclimation Facility on November 13.

**G**rant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.) celebrated the completion of its Nason Creek Acclimation Facility during an open house at the site on November 13.

The Nason Creek Acclimation Facility will provide overwinter accommodations for 275,000 Nason Creek spring Chinook salmon each year. The facility, which was built for \$9.2 million by Strider Construction, was completed earlier this fall. The first generation of spring Chinook that will be acclimated in the facility are now on site.

The hatchery smolts will remain over the winter inside the acclimation building, specifically in eight, 30-foot-diameter acclimation vessels full of water pumped directly from Nason Creek and then circulated before it is returned back into the tributary of the Wenatchee River.

In the spring, the smolts will voluntarily leave the vessels in the acclimation building to begin their journey out to the Pacific Ocean. By imprinting them with the water from Nason Creek in the acclimation facility, the salmon will return to Nason Creek as adults to complete their lifecycle.

The Nason Creek Acclimation Facility fulfills a condition of Grant PUD's federal license that it provides mitigation for spring Chinook passage at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. Grant PUD is contracting with the Washington Fish & Wildlife Department to operate the facility. **NWPPA**

### Kohler assists Alaska's governor-elect

**A**laska Village Electric Cooperative President and CEO Meera Kohler is serving on the consumer energy committee of Governor-Elect Bill Walker's transition team.

Kohler spent a weekend in November at the University of Alaska with more than 250 delegates who discussed policy ideas with other stakeholder representatives and subject matter experts. Each of the 17 committees will produce reports from notes taken all weekend long and share them with the public. The reports will be used by the incoming governor and his staff as the starting point for policy revisions. **NWPPA**

### Columbia River settles with Owens, appoints Hursh

**A**t its December 16 meeting, the Columbia River PUD (St. Helens, Ore.) Board of Directors approved a separation agreement for Kevin Owens and appointed Steve Hursh as interim general manager. The board also approved a \$33.6 million operating and capital budget for 2015, and called for a special board workshop on January 6.



Steve Hursh

Under the terms of the separation agreement and release, Owens remained on paid administrative leave through January 2, and then received a settlement that includes six months of pay and a contribution in lieu of benefits.

Hursh announced the changes to employees at an all-employee meeting on December 17 and read a statement from outgoing manager Owens, who praised them for their dedication to customers.

"I have enjoyed an incredible 11 years at Columbia River PUD and had the privilege of working with an incredibly talented group of management staff and employees that truly understand the value and importance of working for a consumer-owned utility, and the delicate balance required to meet the needs of all customers, the community, and the employees," he said in the letter.

The board also appointed Portland attorney Akin Blitz of the firm Bullard Law as interim general counsel. Blitz has 30 years of experience representing public sector employers. He replaces Kirk Gibson of McDowell Rackner & Gibson, who notified the board in November of his decision to resign as general counsel. **NWPPA**

### Beartooth inks agreement with Lower Valley

**M**anagement of Beartooth Electric Cooperative (Red Lodge, Mont.) will soon be provided by Lower Valley Energy (Afton, Wyo.) under a three-year contract signed by the governing boards of both rural utility

*Continued on page 18*

cooperatives. The agreement requires approval from both the Wyoming Public Service Commission and the federal Rural Utilities Service, a review process that is expected to take at least 60 days.

Lower Valley Energy is an electric cooperative that serves northwestern Wyoming all the way to Yellowstone National Park and areas of eastern Idaho; Beartooth Electric also serves part of northern Wyoming.

Beartooth Electric says the management agreement reflects a shared strategy focused on affordable rates and quality service, adding that Beartooth's rates for electrical power are among the highest in the nation. Lower Valley Energy offers its members one of the lowest rates for electricity in the U.S., according to Beartooth Electric.

"Right now our members are paying 17 cents per kilowatt hour," said the co-op's interim manager, **Dick Peck**. "This management services agreement provides economies of scale and expertise to help us improve performance and work toward more competitive rates."

Under the management agreement, LVE's President/CEO **Jim Webb** will replace Peck's hand on the helm and manage both co-ops. Peck, who came out of retirement to help Beartooth Electric through tough times under the bankruptcy of its generation and transmission cooperative, will stay on during the management transition. **NWPPA**

## Two Washington commissioners named to APPA council

The American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors has re-appointed Mason County PUD 3 (Shelton, Wash.) Commissioner **Linda Gott** and named Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.) Commissioner **Jeff Hall** to three-year terms on its Policy Makers Council. This is Hall's first year on the council; Gott had previously been selected by the board to a one-year term.

Gott was elected to the Mason County PUD 3 Board of Commissioners in 1999, and is in her third six-year term. She has served in a variety of leadership roles with Pacific Northwest utility trade groups and on boards for public power consortiums. She is the first woman elected to the PUD 3 Commission in its 75-year history.

Hall has served as a commissioner for Benton PUD since 2002 and is a past president of the Washington PUD Association based in Olympia.



Linda Gott



Jeff Hall

The 40-member council assists APPA in promoting federal legislation that is important to public power utilities, and works to protect utilities from harmful legislation. It also provides advice on other issues of importance to the national organization. **NWPPA**

## Blachly-Lane director resigns

Effective November 6, 2014, **Bob Sikes**, the director representing District 2, resigned from the Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative Board (Junction City, Ore.). The remaining board members have determined the vacancy will be filled through the normal election process at the 2015 Annual Meeting. **NWPPA**

## NCPA names Howard as new GM

The Northern California Power Agency (Roseville, Calif.) has selected **Randy S. Howard** as its next general manager. Howard will replace **James H. Pope**, who retired on December 30, 2014, after 10 years of service.

"NCPA is pleased to have someone with Randy's breadth of experience and knowledge of the industry joining us to lead our agency into the future," said **Carol Garcia**, NCPA vice chair and vice mayor of the City of Roseville. "His extensive background in generation, distribution, power management, finance, and policy make him uniquely suited to understand and serve the needs of NCPA's member communities and districts."

Howard has more than 30 years of experience in the industry, and many of those are as an executive at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). In his current position as senior assistant general manager — Power System, he leads over 5,600 employees and manages more than \$10 billion in assets.

"Randy is widely recognized throughout the public power sector as a thoughtful, knowledgeable, and well-regarded leader," Garcia said. "He brings the essential qualities needed to successfully manage our agency through the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing utility industry."

Howard holds a bachelor's degree in electrical/electronic engineering from California State University, Sacramento, and a master's in business administration from Pepperdine University. He will assume the general manager's position at NCPA effective February 1, 2015. **NWPPA**

## In-house system saves \$80K for Grays Harbor

Ever try to put a dollar amount on a great skill set and little empowerment? In the case of the Grays Harbor PUD's (Aberdeen, Wash.) **Alice King** and **Corwin Grey**, it comes out to roughly \$80,000 per year. That is the

estimated amount the two will save the PUD thanks to their creation of a new network operations center system.

Previously, the PUD had contracted with an outside agency for system monitoring services to watch over servers, battery banks, communication systems, SCADA, load reporting, and other PUD systems. However, because the PUD outgrew the existing system and it came with \$7,500-per-month costs, the contract was becoming an ill fit.

Seeking a system with lower costs and more efficient responses, Grey and King received the go-ahead from Chief Information Officer **Rob Hanny** to acquire new software and create a system in-house — one that was based on specific Grays Harbor PUD needs. In the end, the new system met PUD efficiency requirements, allowed for faster response times by PUD staff, and did so for roughly \$10,350 per year. Compared to the \$90,000 per year the PUD was paying their contract company, it's impossible to argue the win-win status of the new network operations center system.

While the new system is a Grays Harbor PUD creation, it may spread to other utilities. Hanny says other districts have already contacted him to learn about the system and how it may work for their system. **NWPPA**

## BPA's Shaheen promoted to senior VP

**T**he Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) has announced that **Richard Shaheen** is the new senior vice president of Transmission Services. He takes over after filling the role in an acting capacity since August of this year.

"Richard has had a very positive impact on Transmission Services since joining BPA in September 2013," said BPA Administrator **Elliot Mainzer**. "He has a resumé full of safety and operational accomplishments that will serve BPA well as we continue to strengthen our safety culture, sustain our core transmission assets, and modernize our electric grid."

Shaheen, who is a licensed professional engineer, joined BPA in September 2013 as vice president of BPA's Engineering and Technical Services organization. In that role, he oversaw Transmission Services' \$500 million capital program, the transmission maintenance program, and real property services. Additionally, he served as BPA's principal engineer and key policy formulator in leading the design, material specification, coordination, project management, and construction of major transmission infrastructure projects necessary to sustain and improve the reliability of the existing transmission system and incorporate new generation facilities.



During his tenure as acting senior vice president of BPA Transmission Services, BPA completed the work necessary to offer 15-minute scheduling to transmission customers; continued work on two major 500-kilovolt transmission lines; and initiated upgrades to Celilo Substation and the Pacific Direct Current Intertie.

Shaheen holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Florida and a master's in business administration from Florida Atlantic University. **NWPPA**

## Lee and Johnson join Columbia REA

**C**olumbia REA (Dayton, Wash.) has welcomed two employees to fill new positions at the cooperative: **Ryan Lee** as a GIS drafting technician and **Brendan Johnson** as a data administrator.

Lee will be responsible for maintaining the mapping structure of Columbia REA's electrical distribution system, as well as staking and drafting functions. He comes to Columbia REA from Point Inside, Inc., located in Bellevue, Wash., where he served as a data entry technician. Born and raised in Minnesota, he earned a degree in GIS and geography from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Johnson will be responsible for ensuring the databases that Columbia REA utilizes are running well and that the data stored in them is secure and protected. He comes to Columbia REA from Vecenergy, the energy division of the Vecellio Group in South Florida. Johnson grew up in Albany, Ore., and earned a degree in bioengineering from the University Honors College at Oregon State University.

Both will be working from the Walla Walla office. **NWPPA**



Ryan Lee



Brendan Johnson

## Emerald, Grays Harbor assist neighbor utilities

**T**he end of 2014 brought some brutal weather to the Pacific Northwest, knocking down lines and power for several utilities. One of the tenets of public power is mutual aid, and, as usual, neighboring utilities stepped up and helped their neighbors. For example, following the brutal November 13 ice storm, Emerald PUD (Eugene, Ore.) was called into action to assist Consumers Power Incorporated (Philomath, Ore.) with outage restorations.

*Continued on page 20*

After receiving CPI's reports of extensive damage and downed wire in remote and hard-to-access locations, Emerald PUD formed a five-man line and tree crew, equipped with a bucket truck and two service trucks, and quickly came to their aid in the restoration efforts. Over the next 96 hours, the utilities worked together with a common goal: restoring service to CPI's customers.

"The cooperation and teamwork between our utilities is remarkable," said Emerald PUD Operations Supervisor **Chris Miles**. "It was hard work, but our guys were happy to lend a hand and restore power to CPI's customers."

Last month, Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.) announced that its line crews would be assisting the Snohomish County PUD (Everett, Wash.) with power restoration efforts in the wake of the December 11 storm.

At one point, Snohomish County PUD reported that 13,000 of their customers were still in the dark after strong winds ripped through the Puget Sound region. The call quickly went out for mutual aid responders from neighboring utilities to send crews to assist with the recovery. Grays Harbor quickly assembled two five-man volunteer crews who traveled north to lend a hand with system reconstruction and power restoration work.

"Utilities have a long-standing tradition of helping each other in times of need," said Grays Harbor General Manager **Dave Ward**. "Dozens of utilities helped the Grays Harbor PUD recover from the December 2007 storm. We are proud to return that service when and where we can."

NWPPA

## WPUDA presents annual awards

The Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) presented its annual awards recognizing the outstanding dedicated service and commitment of individuals serving PUDs at the organization's Annual Conference on December 4 in Vancouver, Wash. WPUDA presents awards annually for lifetime achievement, commitment to public service, and meritorious action in a life-threatening situation.

This year, WPUDA awarded two lifetime achievement awards: one to Asotin PUD Commissioner **Gary Hicks** and another to Klickitat PUD Chief Operating Officer **Ron Ihrig**. The award is the highest honor of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association.

Hicks received the WPUDA Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional leadership, dedication,



Gary Hicks



Ron Ihrig

and advocacy work on behalf of public utility districts. Hicks has served 30 years on the Asotin County PUD Board of Commissioners and was instrumental in the formation of the PUD, actively working and campaigning in support of its formation.

Ihrig was honored with the Washington PUD Association Lifetime Achievement Award for his 35 years of dedicated service to customers. Ihrig began working for the PUD in 1979 as a groundman; he worked his way up to become the director of Operations and Generation, and the chief operations officer.

Chelan PUD New Services Coordinator **Sarah DeLozier** received the Washington PUD Association's William T. Elmgren Public Service Award in recognition for her work in support of the Andrew York Lineman Rodeo. The award recognizes outstanding public service by a PUD employee. DeLozier was honored for her commitment and leadership in the development of the Andrew York Lineman Rodeo, a regional event that raised more than \$190,000 for the endowment of the Andrew York Memorial Scholarship. DeLozier assumed a long list of volunteer duties and is credited with playing a key role in the decade of success of the Andrew York Lineman Rodeo.



Sarah DeLozier

This year WPUDA awarded two Good Samaritan Awards for life-saving efforts by PUD employees. The Chelan PUD crew consisting of **Cindy Bowen-Lorrain, Darren Davis, Todd**



The Chelan PUD crew

**Melton, Chris Shimer, and Daniel Martyn** were recognized for their quick actions when one of their fellow PUD employees suffered a cardiac emergency. The employees immediately came to the aid of their coworker by administering CPR and AED. Thanks to their life-saving interventions, the employee is alive and well today.

Cowlitz PUD Purchasing Manager **Jeff Moses** also received a Good Samaritan Award for coming to the aid of boaters thrown into the frigid water near the mouth of the Columbia River after their vessel struck rocks. Moses and his wife, **Cindy**, were crabbing last November when they witnessed a boat hit some hidden rocks at the end of a jetty. Jeff and Cindy quickly responded, pulling four of the five boaters from the water while a fifth was aided by another boat in the area. All the boaters were cold but uninjured and taken to the Coast Guard station. NWPPA

## MEA starts up first engine at Eklutna



*The EGS Operations Team reviews their checklists.*



*The EGS Engine 7 moments before its startup.*

**M**atanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) has started the first of 10 engines at the new Eklutna Generation Station (EGS) power plant. This marks a major milestone in the plant's commissioning process which started earlier this fall.

“What a great day for our members,” said MEA Board President Elsie E. “Lois” Lester. “We have been working towards this for many years and it is gratifying to see it come together. This is an important milestone for MEA and the entire Alaskan Railbelt.”

Engine 7 ran for a test period of approximately five minutes to do an initial system check. All systems performed as anticipated. In addition to verifying engine functionality, the test also allowed MEA to ensure the control system was functional; temperatures and pressures were regulated; and other basic functionality was working smoothly. Engines 8-10 will be started soon to undergo the same testing.

“I am proud of our team,” said MEA General Manager Joe Griffith. “This is a critical step for our power plant and it represents countless hours of hard work and dedication from our MEA team and contractors. It is really something to celebrate.”

MEA had 4 of the 10 engines producing electricity by December 31, and estimated the remaining engines to be up and running by the end of March. MEA has an interim power sales agreement in place with Chugach Electric to supply power through March 31, 2015.

Video footage can be viewed at [www.mea.coop/about-mea/major-projects-2/eklutna-generation-station](http://www.mea.coop/about-mea/major-projects-2/eklutna-generation-station). **NWPPA**

## Santini leads PCWA Board

**O**n December 8, District 2 Director **Primo Santini** was elected by his fellow directors to serve as 2015 chairman of the Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.) Board of Directors.

District 3

Director **Mike Lee**

(of Loomis) was elected as 2015 vice-chairman.

Also serving on the five-member governing board are outgoing Board Chairman and District 5 Director **Joshua Alpine**; District 1 Director **Gray Allen**; and District 4 Director **Robert Dugan**.

In related board news, Alpine has been named as vice chairman of Region 3 of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

Alpine, a former mayor of Colfax, serves as the elected director for PCWA District 5, and is a member of the ACWA Board of Directors. As a leader in Region 3, he brings Placer County and regional water matters to the board.

As Placer County's primary water resource agency, PCWA has long been active with ACWA and other regional and statewide water advocacy organizations. **NWPPA**



*(Left to right) Joshua Alpine and Primo Santini.*

## OPALCO announces Internet project

**A**t the October meeting of OPALCO's (Eastsound, Wash.) board of directors, it was announced that Island Network will be re-created as a new entity and wholly owned subsidiary of the co-op to provide Internet services. **Gerry Lawlor** has been hired as manager of the new entity, along with **Alan Smith** as field superintendent and **Tom Schramm** as operations superintendent. In early 2015, the new entity will emerge with a new name and office location — as well as a robust menu of Internet and voice services.

Currently, new connections are being planned in some of the more notorious “communication black hole” areas where OPALCO is upgrading its grid control backbone to improve field communications for its line crews and other emergency first responders. The first five projects are: Cattle Point/Cape San Juan, Doe Bay/Eagle Lake, South Lopez, Deer Harbor/Spring Point, and Mt. Dallas/San Juan Island West.

*Continued on page 22*

The five initial projects are projected to serve approximately 300 locations in this first phase. Island Network has identified another 2,500 potential connections by working with neighborhood associations where density and location allow the most members to benefit in the shortest time frame. The goal is to get the new entity (previously known as Island Network) to its financial break-even point — 2,000 to 3,000 connections — and then let it grow based on member demand. **NWPPA**

### Sanders elected president of Benton PUD

**B**enton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.) Commissioner **Lori Sanders** has been elected president of the Benton PUD Commission for 2015; also, **Barry Bush** was elected vice president and **Jeff Hall** was elected secretary.

Sanders became commissioner for Benton PUD in January 2005. She is the owner and president of Energy Incentives, Inc., a consulting firm on conservation and renewable resources. She also serves on the Energy Northwest Executive Board. She resides in Kennewick, Wash.

Benton PUD is directed by a three-member board of commissioners elected by citizens of Benton County. Each commissioner represents a different sector of the county and serves a six-year term. The election of officers takes place annually. **NWPPA**

### EWEB launches improved outage services

**T**he Eugene Water & Electric Board (Ore.) has launched a series of enhanced electric outage reporting services to make it faster and easier for customers to let the utility know when their lights go out.

If a storm does knock out power in EWEB's service area, customers can now use the new, automated outage call-in line or send a text message to the utility to report outages. The new outage reporting phone line and the text messaging options also allow customers to receive restoration status updates during periods when the power is out.

"These enhancements are the direct result of feedback we heard from our customer-owners after the February 2014 snowstorm that left thousands without power for several days," said EWEB General Manager **Roger Gray**. "The new automated phone line and text messaging options will allow customers to report problems faster. The quicker an outage is reported, the faster EWEB can respond and begin to restore power."

The February storm brought snow and then ice, caused hundreds of trees to fall, downed wires, and knocked out power to more than 10,000 EWEB customers. At one point, the utility received more than 11,000 outage calls over a 12-hour period. That unprecedented volume caused long wait times, busy signals, and dropped calls. **NWPPA**

### We remember

**J**ohn F. Hossack, born on June 11, 1927, to William and Clarice Coulton Hossack in Sandpoint, Idaho, passed away on Friday, December 19, 2014, at the Good Samaritan Mountain View Manor in Eureka, Mont. He was 87 years old.

He grew up in the Belton (West Glacier) and Kalispell area, graduating from the Kalispell high school in 1945. He entered the Navy immediately after graduating and served during World War II. He then attended school at Montana State and Montana University, graduating from the latter with a degree in forestry.

He married Tana Marie Jones in 1958, and together they adopted four children. Tana passed away in 2004. In 2006, he married Cheryl White, and they enjoyed eight wonderful years together.



Hossack started working for the Forest Service at the young age of 15 as a lookout/smoke chaser. He continued his career in the Forest Service working on numerous ranger districts and forests. He also served as an incident command officer on wildfires, and taught firefighting skills at Marana, Ariz., in the winter for 15 years. He retired as forest supervisor in 1982 from the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho.

After his retirement from the Forest Service, he worked as a consultant/lobbyist for members of the logging industry and joined the board of directors for Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Eureka.

In addition to his parents and first wife, Hossack was preceded in death by daughters, Sharon Lee and Marla Elizabeth Hossack; and brothers, George "Gus" Hossack and Charles "Charlie" Hossack. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; sons, William Floyd "Bill" (and Cathy) Hossack and Robert Joseph Patrick "Tucker" Hossack; daughter, Joni Marie (and Todd) Hudson; brother, Donald Hossack; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. **NWPPA**

### Evluma™ updates AreaMax options

**L**ED lighting manufacturer Evluma announced that its popular AreaMax outdoor area security light products can now be ordered with integrated photocontrol and



anti-corrosion coastal materials options. The options work with AreaMax's new sleeker, lighter housing that increases overall architectural appeal and ease of installation.

"The updated AreaMax is the same robust technology, with the same thermal characteristics, supported by the same manufacturing philosophy, but with a more sophisticated look and feel," said **Keith Miller**, Evluma's president and CEO. "And the new integrated photocontrol, powered by a solar cell, provides a low-cost, ready-to-install option for utilities."

Rugged die-cast construction, a glass lens, and 20kV surge protection have made the AreaMax a dependable, utility grade, all-weather luminaire since its introduction in 2012. Every AreaMax includes the highly acclaimed photocontrol failsafe mode (PCFM) that enables the area light to continue to operate in the event of photocontrol failure. AreaMax is a recognized winner of the 2013 NGL Outdoor Solid-State Lighting Design Competition in the Local Residential Roadway Category.

Formed in 2008, Evluma is committed to developing affordable, long-lasting, and environmentally low impact LED lighting solutions that fundamentally change the landscape of the outdoor utility lighting market. For more information, please contact **Dave Tanonis** ((925) 998-4297 or [dtanonis@evluma.com](mailto:dtanonis@evluma.com)) or **Adam Garcia** ((425) 336-5801 or [agarcia@evluma.com](mailto:agarcia@evluma.com)). **NWPPA**

### GE, NEEA release GeoSpring™ heat pump water heater

**S**ince 1997, Northwest energy utilities and energy efficiency organizations have worked together to support the introduction of innovative technologies to market through the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA). Last month, thanks in part to this support, GE announced advancements on a proven technology that can help bring about enormous energy savings to the region: the GeoSpring™ heat pump water heater.

Made in Louisville, Ky., the GeoSpring™ heat pump water heater is designed to deliver stellar performance for all climates and installation locations, including colder

climates in the Northwest and throughout the country. This is the first product to meet the highest efficiency tier of the Northern Climate Specification that NEEA helped develop with Northwest utilities and other regional stakeholders. NEEA also conducted independent testing to verify the product's performance.

As one of the most energy-efficient water heating solutions designed for northern climates, GE's GeoSpring™ heat pump water heater offers improved performance through advanced compressor technology and works at temperatures as low as 35 degrees. GE estimates that the GeoSpring™ is up to 69 percent more efficient compared to a standard electric water heater, saving the average household \$388 year.

The GeoSpring™ heat pump water heaters will be available for purchase through GE suppliers beginning in the first quarter of 2015. Visit [www.GeoSpring.com/pro](http://www.GeoSpring.com/pro) to learn more.

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) is an alliance of more than 140 Northwest utilities and energy efficiency organizations working on behalf of more than 13 million energy consumers. For more information, visit [www.neea.org](http://www.neea.org). **NWPPA**

### Black & Veatch named contractor for NAPD project

**B**lack & Veatch has been selected as prime contractor for the engineering, procurement, construction, and startup of the Oregon Clean Energy Center (OCEC) in Oregon, Ohio. The natural gas combined cycle power plant is being developed by North America Project Development, LLC (NAPD) with equity financing from Energy Investors Funds and I Squared Capital.

The 869-megawatt facility will provide electricity for growing manufacturing and residential use. It replaces generation from several aging coal-fired power plants in the region that are being retired. Construction is expected to begin in November 2014; the plant is expected to begin commercial operations by July 2017. More than 500 workers are expected to be at the project site during peak construction.

"This energy center will employ among the best quality technology that increases efficiency and emissions control," said **Dean Oskvig**, president and CEO of Black & Veatch's energy business. "By implementing this project we are supporting NAPD's goal to provide customers with cost-effective clean energy."

Black & Veatch is an employee-owned, global leader in building critical human infrastructure in energy, water, telecommunications, and government services. Follow us on [www.bv.com](http://www.bv.com) and in social media. **NWPPA**

### Aclara launches iiDEAS® Operational Data Management System

**A**clara Technologies LLC announced the launch of its new iiDEAS® Operational Data Management System. iiDEAS, which is an acronym for Intelligent Infrastructure: Data, Efficiency, Analytics, and Services, is a pivotal technology platform that allows utilities to realize the full potential of true smart infrastructure solutions (SIS).

“A smart infrastructure environment is the new gold standard for utilities, and Aclara is committed to be the global leader in this space,” said **Allan Connolly**, CEO at Aclara. “The introduction of the iiDEAS platform represents the first of many technology developments from Aclara that will transform SIS from concept to reality. The new iiDEAS platform also strengthens our relationship with our customers and the value of our technology in the marketplace today and in the future.”

SIS elevates the use of technology in distribution networks from automated metering infrastructure (AMI), which is the current state of the industry, to a far more advanced and holistic approach. SIS incorporates a range of technologies that enable utilities to monitor the state of their distribution network, analyze the data, and communicate to the utility so that measures can be taken to optimize operations, preempt problems, or respond to issues quickly and efficiently.

Aclara Technologies LLC is a world-class supplier of smart infrastructure technologies to water, gas, and electric utilities globally. Visit [www.Aclara.com](http://www.Aclara.com), follow us on Twitter (@AclaraSolutions), email [info@aclara.com](mailto:info@aclara.com), or call (800) 297-2728. Current customers can visit [Aclara\\_connect](#) for additional information. **NWPPA**

### SEPA’s annual utility solar survey now open

**S**olar Electric Power Association (SEPA) is conducting the eighth annual survey to provide data for the 2014 *Utility Solar Market Snapshot* (to be released in April 2015). Past reports have garnered significant media attention from outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Renewable Energy World*, *Transmission & Distribution World*, and Reuters.

The annual survey collects utility data on solar electric installations in the United States, both photovoltaic (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP), on the customer and utility side of the meter.

Each year, SEPA also announces the top 10 annual and cumulative solar megawatts and watts per customer awards at its Utility Solar Conference.

Please send your response by February 4, 2015. Early submissions are appreciated, and those submitting by the deadline will receive complimentary summary reports.

Access the survey at [www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1923334/2014-Utility-Solar-Market-Report-Survey-No-Password](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1923334/2014-Utility-Solar-Market-Report-Survey-No-Password).

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) is an educational non-profit organization dedicated to helping utilities integrate solar energy into their portfolio. For more information, visit [www.solarelectricpower.org](http://www.solarelectricpower.org). **NWPPA**

### Pfeiffer tapped as Novinium senior VP

**N**ovinium has hired **Wade Pfeiffer** as the company’s new senior vice president of Sales and Marketing. Pfeiffer has over 20 years of sales, services, technology, and operations experience. He was previously president and CEO of Safeharbor Knowledge Solutions, which was sold to Enghouse Limited in 2013. In addition to that position, he has held senior-level positions at nGenera Corp. (now Moxie Software), Talisma Corporation, X10 USA, Inc., and Orca Monitoring. Pfeiffer has a bachelor’s in commerce from New South Wales University.



Founded in 2003 by the experts who invented cable rejuvenation at Dow Corning in the 1980s, Novinium’s patented injection process rejuvenates and extends the reliable life of cable up to 40 years. Further information is available at [www.novinium.com](http://www.novinium.com). **NWPPA**

### SPIDA releases SPIDACalc v5.3.1.0

**S**PIDA Software, an industry leader in developing innovative software products for the electric utility industry, has released SPIDACalc v5.3.1.0.

As the industry continues to evolve and new regulations are put in place, SPIDA is driven to keep the company’s most widely used product one step ahead. Many of the new features and enhancements found in v5.3.1.0 are in anticipation of future regulatory changes and requests from our current SPIDACalc users.

SPIDA Software is leading the way with practical and cutting-edge software products that help electric and telecommunication utilities better design, manage, and track their physical assets. SPIDACalc is the industry-leading structural analysis software that performs pole loading, pole strength, and guying analyses. For more information about SPIDA Software, visit [www.spidasoftware.com](http://www.spidasoftware.com). **NWPPA**

by Tom Porter

# After GOP gains, a flurry of year-end activity — and now pressure to govern

The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress ended in a flurry of activity, avoiding a government shut-down that the public blamed Republicans for in late 2013. The signature FY 2015 funding deal was not pretty — a \$1.01 trillion behemoth appropriations bill funding all the departments through September 30, 2015, with the exception of temporary funding for the Homeland Security Department to register Republican displeasure over the President's executive action on immigration.

Among the departments of Energy, Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the DOE was the only one to see an increase. Although the bill was largely free of the most controversial policy “riders,” including those that would bar administrative action on EPA climate and water regulations, it did include language prohibiting the Fish and Wildlife Service, for one year, from finalizing Endangered Species Act listings for sage grouse species, including the greater sage-grouse with habitat in 11 western states.

In what is sure to invite pushback from congressional Republicans, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell promised in late December that her department will reach “a decision” in FY 2015 on whether to list the sage grouse while chastising congress for “political posturing.”

The Defense bill was also approved, which contained a package of lands bills which would designate nearly 250,000 acres of wilderness in Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, and Washington; add additional national park land; and protect approximately 140 miles of rivers. It would also allow expedited oil and gas permits, and would convey about 70,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest to Sealaska Corp., primarily for logging.

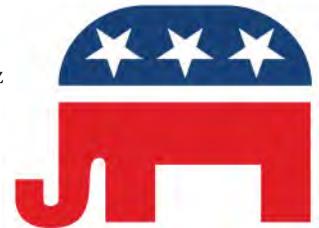
Also included was language authorizing the Interior Department to enter into leases with non-federal entities to produce hydropower at 11 Bureau of Reclamation projects built under the Water Conservation and Utilization Act of 1939, including in Idaho, Montana, and Utah.

Additionally, Congress extended a package of expired 55 tax provisions, including the Production Tax Credit for wind and other renewables, through December 31, 2014.

Wind developers criticized the one-year extension, saying it was, effectively, an unworkable two-week extension. The legislation fell far short of the goals of both parties, but it was the only deal that could be agreed to.

The Senate also confirmed dozens of the Administration's nominees, including Arkansas

regulator Colette Honorable to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Estevan Lopez to lead the Bureau of Reclamation. Lopez, who has 25 years of public sector water and utilities experience, has been serving in the acting role since October.



### 114<sup>th</sup> Congress begins

The 114<sup>th</sup> Congress began on January 3, with new Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) presiding over an additional nine GOP seats and a 54-46 majority. Republicans picked up 14 House seats, giving Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) a 247-188 margin and the most significant GOP majority in generations. Although the House will continue to have the ability to work its will, McConnell is still short of a 60-vote filibuster-proof majority.

### Northwest Delegation changes

In NWPPA's delegation, Republicans claimed six new seats, including two held by Democrats:

- Rep. Dan Newhouse (R), a farmer and former state legislator, succeeded the retiring Doc Hastings (R) in Washington state.
- In Montana, retired Navy SEAL Ryan Zinke (R) won the House seat vacated by Steve Daines (R) who defeated incumbent Sen. John Walsh (D).
- In Alaska, Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and former attorney general Dan Sullivan (R) defeated incumbent Sen. Mark Begich (D).
- Utah elected former Saratoga Springs mayor Mia Love (R) to fill the seat of retiring Rep. Jim Matheson (D).
- Nevadans chose Rep. Crescent Hardy (R), a state legislator and former public works and water district director, to replace Rep. Steven Horsford (D).

Among the new NWPPA delegation assignments, the most significant is Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who now

*Continued on page 26*



*House and Senate committees are expected to exercise aggressive oversight of federal agencies, including the pending EPA emissions reductions for existing power plants and the Waters of the U.S. rule (NWPPA has submitted comments on both). Additional focus is expected on oil and gas development with Sen. Murkowski now a receptive counterpart to House leaders long frustrated with bills being dead on arrival in the Senate.*

chairs the Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR), with jurisdiction over the DOE and Interior. The new ranking member is Sen. Maria Cantwell (D–Wash.). Sen. Daines was selected member of that panel as well, while Sen. Dean Heller (R–Nev.) leaves the committee.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D–Calif.) relinquished her Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) chairmanship to James Inhofe (R–Okla.), an aggressive critic of the EPA’s climate initiatives. EPW has jurisdiction over the EPA — including climate and Clean Water Act policy, nuclear energy, and other areas.

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D–Ore.) left his Natural Resources ranking member slot to take the same position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, with Army Corps of Engineers and Clean Water Act policy jurisdiction. Nevada’s Rep. Hardy is new on that panel.

Democrats are expected to be announced this month for each of these committees. However, it is already clear that with the many changes so far, NWPPA has significant advocates in the new Congress.

### **Legislative agenda; pressure for GOP success**

GOP leadership acknowledges that they must govern effectively and avoid the partisan gridlock of recent years in order to make the case that they should be entrusted with the presidency in 2016. Although Republicans initially made conciliatory statements, the President flared GOP tempers with his executive action on illegal immigration.

House and Senate committees are expected to exercise aggressive oversight of federal agencies, including the pending EPA emissions reductions for existing power plants and the Waters of the U.S. rule (NWPPA has submitted comments on both). Additional focus is expected on oil and gas development with Sen. Murkowski now a receptive counterpart to House leaders long frustrated with bills being dead on arrival in the Senate. Also, Sen. McConnell promised that a measure authorizing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will be the first order of business in 2015.

Because the recently passed extenders package is already expired, there is a bi-partisan willingness to find a way to extend those provisions forward — possibly within a larger tax reform effort. This could put changes to the exemption for municipal bonds in play again, so NWPPA municipals and PUD members must stay vigilant.

Wherever the two sides are able to find agreement, the window for doing it is short. The closer to November 2016, the more the congressional agenda will reflect partisan posturing for the coming presidential elections. **NWPPA**

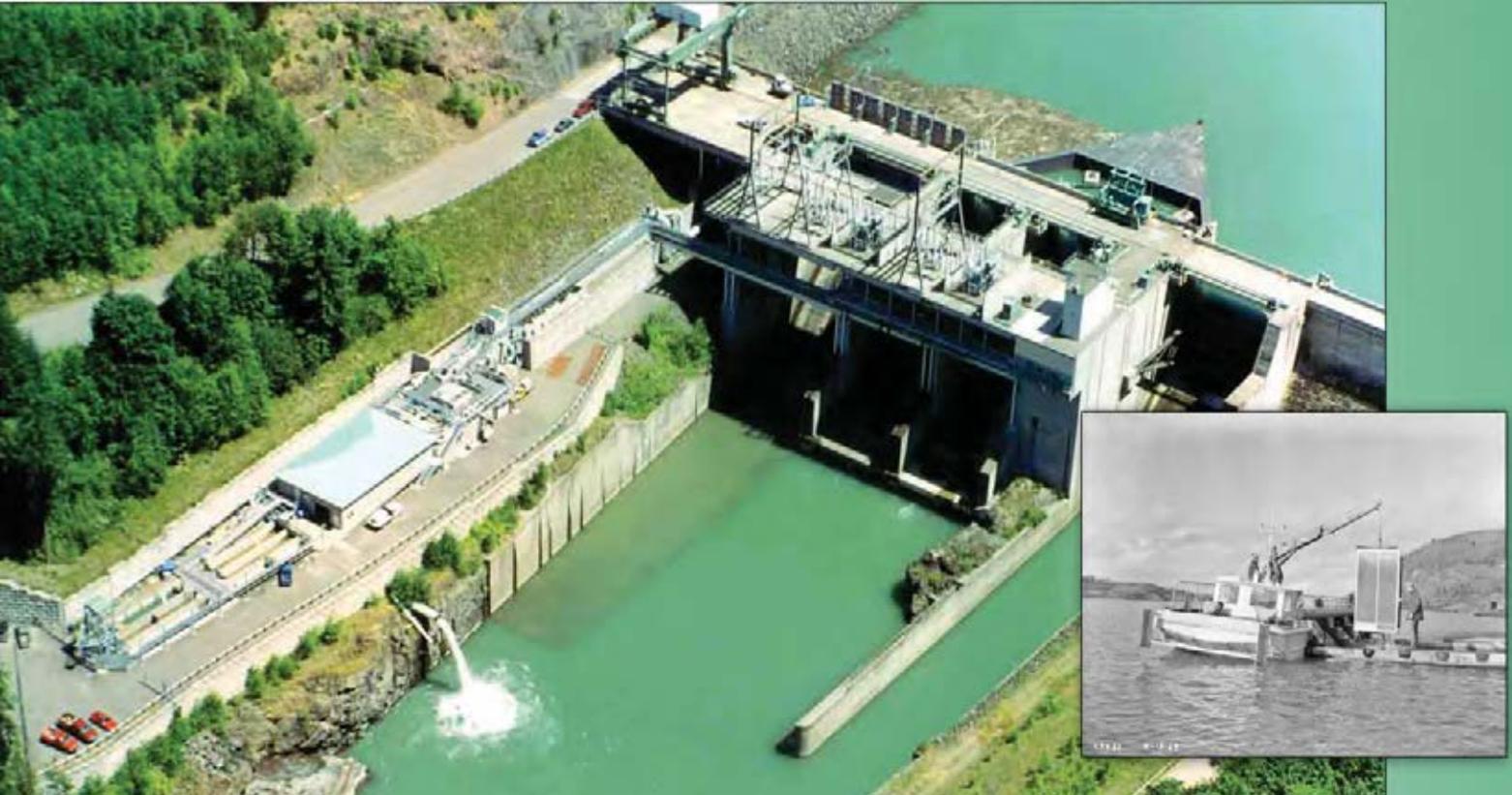
*Tom Porter is with Morgan Meguire, NWPPA’s Washington, D.C., consulting firm. He can be reached at either (202) 661-6187 or [tporter@morganmeguire.com](mailto:tporter@morganmeguire.com).*



## COVER STORY

by Monica Brummer

# Fish, resources, and utilities win with trilateral collaboration



*Although over two million smolts have been captured and safely transported to the lower Cowlitz River since the completion of the above Cowlitz Falls Fish Facility in 1996, fish collection efficiency has been insufficient to restore self-sustaining anadromous fish populations to harvestable levels. Inset: Before the dam and fish facility were constructed, the Coho collected fish from Riffe Lake (pictured here in 1969). All photos provided by Tacoma Power.*

**T**acoma Power, Lewis County PUD, and Bonneville Power Administration signed a long-term agreement that will improve natural fish runs in western Washington's Cowlitz River. At the same time, Tacoma Power and Lewis County PUD have formalized an agreement to work cooperatively when the time comes to seek relicensing from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for their respective dams in the Cowlitz River basin.

"This agreement is the foundation for improving downstream fish collection on the Cowlitz River," said Ted Coates, Tacoma Power superintendent. "All three signatories are committed to a new era of cooperation and mutual support."

"All of us that own and operate hydro projects know that we have an obligation to put resources back in the river," said Bob Geddes, general manager of Lewis County PUD. "This new agreement gives us a chance to do that collectively and it also puts us in a good position for the future, when the project is up for relicensing."

The agreement allows Tacoma Power to take ownership of BPA-owned existing fish collection facilities at Lewis County PUD's Cowlitz Falls Dam and to install, operate, and maintain improved fish collection structures at the dam to increase fish survival. The upgraded facilities will attract more juvenile Chinook, steelhead, and coho as the fish migrate downstream. The fish will be collected and then trucked around the dams and released to continue their trip to the ocean.

"This is a great example of neighbors working together well," said Holly Harwood, manager of Fish Operations, Policy, and Planning and negotiator for BPA. "And the best part of this collaboration is that there is an agreement to cooperate with each other well into the future."

BPA will provide funding through June 2032 to partially offset Tacoma's cost to operate the existing facility. The new agreement also transferred the BPA-owned ponds and related equipment at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery to

*Continued on page 28*



*A coho salmon smolt.*

*Tacoma Power's fish hatcheries, which are operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, are still producing millions of fish each year, but the emphasis is changing to better ensure the success of the recovery of the listed species.*

Tacoma Power, which will operate and maintain improved fish collection structures at the dam to increase fish survival and passage. Within the agreement, Tacoma Power will also have the ability to collect and remove debris from Lake Scanewa, the two-mile-long reservoir formed by Cowlitz Falls Dam.

The journey of building the partnership hasn't been easy.

"If you could see where this started, then you'd see how far they've come," said Denny Rohr, president/CEO of D. Rohr and Associates. "In the beginning, there was a lot of disagreement and a lack of trust. In the end (of the agreement process), they were working very collaboratively. The bottom line is that they are doing what is good for the resource, which is fish, and they are doing it well."

Rohr, who has 42 years of industry experience, was hired as a facilitator to help the three organizations. He said that these cooperative agreements take time, but that ultimately the cooperation of the parties is what pushed this agreement across the finish line.

All partnerships are different with varying degrees of subject matter, sizes, and scopes of what they need to achieve. The need of the Cowlitz River trilateral partnership started with caring for natural resources and fish.

"This project is important because we are concerned about the long-term effect on resources," Geddes said. "We use the same water and should be working together."

A lot of progress has been made over the last two years to get the process in place, he added.

### **Tacoma Power's Cowlitz River Project**

In the 1960s, Tacoma Power completed the Cowlitz River Project, which was composed of two high dams:

Mayfield, completed in 1962, and Mossyrock, completed in 1968. They're located at river miles 52 and 66.5, respectively. The dams form the 13-mile-long Mayfield Lake and 23-mile-long Riffe Lake.

"When only Mayfield Dam existed on the Cowlitz, the fish bypass facility that we built allowed us to collect the juvenile salmon just fine," said Pat McCarty, generation manager of Tacoma Power. "But six years later, when we built Mossyrock Dam upstream of Mayfield, it hindered our ability to effectively collect downstream migrants from the upper Cowlitz River basin."

However, they did continue to try to collect the juvenile fish.

"We had a boat called the Coho that would launch into Riffe Lake. The Coho was used to transport the juvenile fish collected in a series of net traps to a location downstream where the fish could continue their journey to the ocean," he added.

Those efforts continued into the early '70s but were hindered by the significant amount of debris that came down the river and regularly wiped out the nets. That collection method came to an end when the fisheries agencies agreed that Tacoma Power should place its energies in the giant hatcheries and move the emphasis from trying to collect natural fish to producing more hatchery fish.

The relicensing of Tacoma's Cowlitz River Project, combined with the Endangered Species Act listing of several species of salmon in the Cowlitz River as "threatened," changed that emphasis. The comprehensive settlement agreement reached in 2000, and the resulting FERC license that Tacoma Power received in 2002, stipulated that the "priority objective is to maximize the recovery of wild, indigenous salmonid stocks."

Tacoma Power's fish hatcheries, which are operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, are still producing millions of fish each year, but the emphasis is changing to better ensure the success of the recovery of the listed species.

Adult fish returning to the Cowlitz River are collected below Tacoma Power's dams at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery and transported to either the Tilton River above Mayfield Dam or to the Cowlitz and Cispus rivers above Cowlitz Falls Dam.

### Lewis County PUD's Cowlitz Falls Hydro Project

The process to develop a hydroelectric project at the Cowlitz Falls site, upstream of Riffe Lake, began during the 1980s. A power purchase agreement to fund the construction and operation of the Cowlitz Falls Dam was entered into in 1992 by Lewis County PUD and BPA. Through a separate agreement with Friends of the Cowlitz, BPA agreed to build a downstream fish collection system on the new dam. The completion of the run-of-river Cowlitz Falls Dam in 1994 then allowed for an opportunity to reintroduce salmon and steelhead to the historically productive 240 miles of anadromous habitat upstream of Cowlitz Falls Dam.

The Cowlitz Falls Fish Facility was completed during the winter of 1996 by BPA and provided facilities for holding, handling, and loading smolts and adults into Tacoma Power's transportation trucks. Although over two million smolts have been captured and safely transported to the lower Cowlitz River since 1996, fish collection efficiency has been insufficient to restore self-sustaining anadromous fish populations to harvestable levels.

### Tacoma's new license for the Cowlitz River Project

Fast forward to 2002 and a new FERC license. Tacoma Power's downstream fish collection and fish survival from the upper Cowlitz River basin had to be improved with specific measures for success in order to meet the requirements of the new license.

Fish agencies and consultants, along with Tacoma Power biologists and engineers, evaluated numerous alternatives and all agreed that the highest probability for success was to improve the fish collection facility at Cowlitz Falls Dam rather than try to construct a new facility further downstream in Riffe Lake.

In 2003, an access agreement was made between Tacoma Power, Lewis County PUD, and BPA, which, along with numerous amendments, has enabled the testing of various improvements to enhance fish collection at Cowlitz Falls over the past 11 years. A new fish screen was built by Tacoma Power and tested at Cowlitz Falls Dam during the 2006-2009 seasons. The new fish screen did not perform as well as expected and proved unlikely to achieve the required improvements to meet the fish passage survival goals.

After years of studies, hydraulic modeling, fish evaluations, and extensive alternatives analysis, the Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee concluded that building an adaptable shore-based collector on the north end of Cowlitz Falls Dam would provide the best likelihood of Tacoma Power successfully meeting its fish collection goals.

### Unique fish collector

Tacoma Power has been working collaboratively with the fish agencies and Lewis County PUD over the past several years to design the new fish collector. The new collector, which will be operated in tandem with the existing fish collection facilities at Cowlitz Falls Dam, is estimated to cost \$30 million.

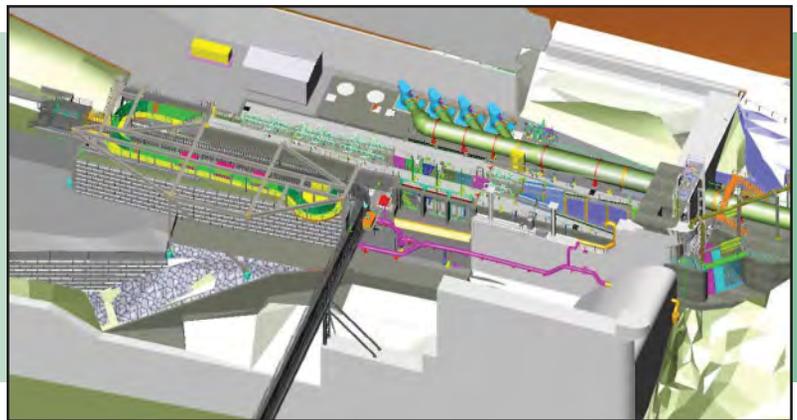
The new fish collector will attract more juvenile Chinook, steelhead, and coho as the fish migrate downstream. The fish will be collected and then trucked around the dams and released into the lower Cowlitz River to continue their trip to the ocean.

"This is a unique set-up," Harwood commented. "Tacoma Power has an obligation to collect fish and the best place to meet that requirement is at a dam they don't own. It took a while to figure out how to make that work, but now we have a solid plan that will guide how we all work together moving forward."

Geddes said that there are some skeptics in the area. "I'm not an engineer. We need several engineers to keep an eye on safety and to assure the plan is secure. We will do this project right, and it will benefit both facilities and the fish," he said.

The final design, which was completed in September 2014, includes pumps, a pipeline, screens (both traveling and fixed), fish flumes, trash rack cleaning system, a pump back discharge structure, and a bypass channel. It also involves cutting a 16-foot-wide-by-23-foot-high entryway through the dam that will simulate a flowing river to attract the fish that want to migrate downstream.

*Continued on page 30*



*A 3D computer-generated image of what the new fish collector will look like.*



*Above: Fisherman on the fishing bridge at Taidnapam Park try to catch some of the landlocked coho in Riffe Lake.  
Below: A successful catch!*



“What’s unique about this design,” McCarty said, “is that the water will be pumped into the collector to attract fish and then back up to the reservoir to guide fish toward the collector entrance. We will be able to manipulate the flow patterns in the vicinity of the entrance in order to help guide the fish toward the dam.”

Another unique feature of this collector is that when the flows into the reservoir increase significantly, the pumps can be turned off and a gate opened to allow water to flow through the fish collector and down to the tailrace. This will allow the first portion of water that would normally be spilled out of the reservoir to go through the new fish collector. These features provide opportunities to catch juvenile fish that would have otherwise been spilled into Riffe Lake.

Construction is expected to begin in March 2015 and be complete by the end of 2016. Plans are to have the new Cowlitz Falls North Shore Collector in service by April 2017. **NWPPA**

*Monica Brummer is with Tacoma Power. For questions about any of the above projects, please contact Pat McCarty, Tacoma Power’s generation manager, at either pmccarty@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 502-8336.*

### The partners

- Tacoma Power serves 170,000 customers in Tacoma, University Place, Fircrest and portions of Fife, Lakewood, Federal Way, Steilacoom, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and other portions of Pierce County. The Cowlitz River Project is the largest of four Tacoma Power hydroelectric projects which generate about half of the utility’s power needs.
- Lewis County PUD provides electricity to approximately 31,000 consumers through 3,370 miles of distribution line. Cowlitz Falls Dam provides one-third of the utility’s power needs. The project is located about 88.5 river miles upstream from the Cowlitz’s confluence with the Columbia River, near the town of Randle, Wash.
- BPA is a federal nonprofit agency based in the Pacific Northwest. Although BPA is part of the U.S. Department of Energy, it is self-funding and covers its costs by selling its products and services. BPA markets wholesale electrical power from 31 federal hydro projects in the Columbia River basin, one nonfederal nuclear plant, and several other small nonfederal power plants. The dams are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. About one-third of the electric power used in the Northwest comes from BPA. Since 1978, BPA has spent \$13.8 billion to support fish and wildlife programs along the Columbia and Snake rivers. **NWPPA**

# 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:** Field Services Representative  
**COMPANY:** Copper Valley Electric Association (Glennallen, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$25.00 per hour  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 23, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

**POSITION:** T&D Planning Electrical Engineer II/III (R14-255)  
**COMPANY:** Portland General Electric (Portland, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 29, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS\\_External/CSSPage\\_Referred.ASP?Reg=R14-255](https://PGN.igreentree.com/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Reg=R14-255).

**POSITION:** Electric Resources Analyst I/II  
**COMPANY:** City of Roseville Electric Utility (Roseville, Calif.)  
**SALARY:** \$85,105-\$125,453 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 30, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.roseville.ca.us/jobs](http://www.roseville.ca.us/jobs).

**POSITION:** Transmission & Distribution Substation Engineer  
**COMPANY:** City of Tacoma (Tacoma, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$81,827-\$116,688 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 30, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.cityoftacoma.org/jobs](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/jobs).

**POSITION:** Journeyman Lineman  
**COMPANY:** Douglas Electric Cooperative (Roseburg, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** \$41.50 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 31, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Applications are available online at [www.douglaselectric.com](http://www.douglaselectric.com) or [www.dec.coop](http://www.dec.coop). Submit completed application to Todd Sherwood, P.O. Box 1327, Roseburg, OR 97470.

**POSITION:** Senior Systems Engineering Technician  
**COMPANY:** Central Lincoln PUD (Newport, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** \$61,895-\$87,094 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** February 9, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.clpud.org](http://www.clpud.org). More information about this position, as well as application requirements, may be found at this website.

**POSITION:** Journeyman Maintenance Wireman  
**COMPANY:** Central Lincoln PUD (Newport, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** \$42.69 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** February 9, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.clpud.org](http://www.clpud.org). More information about this position, as well as application requirements, may be found at this website.

**POSITION:** Electric Utility Director  
**COMPANY:** City and Borough of Sitka (Sitka, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$118,123-\$140,441 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** February 15, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Application and job description can be found at [www.cityofsitka.org](http://www.cityofsitka.org). Submit applications by mail to City and Borough of Sitka, 100 Lincoln St., Sitka, AK 99835, fax to (907) 747-1846, or email to [markd@cityofsitka.com](mailto:markd@cityofsitka.com).

**POSITION:** Assistant Manager of Accounting and Office Services  
**COMPANY:** Glacier Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cut Bank, Mont.)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** February 27, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Applications are available at [www.glacierelectric.com](http://www.glacierelectric.com) or at the main office in Cut Bank. Send completed application and three professional references to Glacier Electric Cooperative, Attn: Matt Hudson, 410 East Main St., Cut Bank, MT 59427, or to [mhudson@glacierelectric.com](mailto:mhudson@glacierelectric.com).

**POSITION:** Distribution Engineering Supervisor (DES)  
**COMPANY:** Mission Valley Power (Pablo, Mont.)  
**SALARY:** \$39.11-\$46.56 hourly, DOQ.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** February 28, 2015.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.cskt.org](http://www.cskt.org). For more information, call Kerry at (406) 883-7944.

**POSITION:** Journeyman Lineman  
**COMPANY:** Clatskanie People's Utility District (Clatskanie, Ore.)  
**SALARY:** \$41.16 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit completed application, cover letter, and resumé to Melissa Korsmo, Human Resource Manager, Clatskanie PUD, P.O. Box 216, Clatskanie, OR 97016. Applications can be downloaded from [www.clatskaniepud.com](http://www.clatskaniepud.com). For more information, contact Melissa at (503) 728-2163 or [mkorsmo@clatskaniepud.com](mailto:mkorsmo@clatskaniepud.com).

**POSITION:** Manager of Power Production  
**COMPANY:** Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cordova, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$90,000-\$110,000, DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit resumé and cover letter detailing your interest and qualifications for this position, and three professional references. For information and application, go to [http://cordovaelectric.com/?page\\_id=109](http://cordovaelectric.com/?page_id=109).

**POSITION:** Dispatch Manager — Regular  
**COMPANY:** Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Download, complete, and submit MEA employment application at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop).

**POSITION:** Reliability Compliance Analyst  
**COMPANY:** Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** Up to \$81,000 annually.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at [www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org). If you have questions, contact Ruth Erwert at [joblist@chelanpud.org](mailto:joblist@chelanpud.org) or (509) 661-4540 to discuss position. **NWPPA**

## Advertisers

Energy Northwest .....14  
Northwest Line Constructors Chapter — NECA.....Back cover



# Why a NECA firm?

Well, for one thing, they're all qualified electrical contractors — they know how to work with utilities. For another, NECA members can be right there when you need them, and cost you absolutely nothing when you don't. Keep this list of member firms. It can save you a lot of time, money, and headaches whenever you want it to.



**Northwest Line Constructors Chapter**  
**National Electrical Contractors Association**  
**Tracy Harness, Chapter Manager**  
**6162 N.E. 80th Ave., Portland, OR 97218**  
**(503) 255-4824 • Fax (503) 256-1907**  
**tracyh@nwlineca.com**  
**www.nwlineca.com**

**Advanced Underground Utilities**  
P.O. Box 309  
Sumner, WA 98390  
Call (253) 988-2449

**Aztech Electric, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 11795  
(Zip 99211-1795)  
5204 E. Broadway  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212  
Call (509) 536-6200

**Brent Woodward, Inc.**  
307 S.W. 2nd St.  
Redmond, OR 97756  
Call (541) 504-5538

**Burke Electric LLC**  
13563 S.E. 27th Place, Suite A  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
Call (425) 644-0351\*

**Christenson Electric Inc.**  
111 S.W. Columbia, Suite 480  
Portland, OR 97201  
Call (503) 419-3300\*

**City Pacific Services**  
819 Orca St.  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Call (360) 584-8644

**Cougar Construction**  
3015 Salem Ave. S.E.  
Albany, OR 97321  
Call (541) 791-3410

**DJ's Electrical, Inc.**  
2319 S.E. Grace Avenue  
Battle Ground, WA 98604  
Call (360) 666-8070

**EC Company**  
6412 South 196th Street  
Kent, WA 98032  
Call (206) 242-3010

**Holmes Electric**  
600 Washington Ave. S.  
Kent, WA 98032  
Call (253) 479-4000

**International Line Builders, Inc.**  
SO. California Office  
2520 Rubidoux Blvd.  
Riverside, CA 92509-2147  
Call (951) 682-2982

**International Line Builders, Inc.**  
Sacramento Office  
1550 S. River Rd.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Call (503) 692-0193  
(Tualatin's-we transfer)

**International Line Builders, Inc.**  
Tualatin Office  
19020 A SW Cipole Rd  
Tualatin, OR 97062  
Call (503) 692-0193

**International Line Builders, Inc.**  
Spokane Office  
4520 N. Barker Rd  
Spokane, WA 99027  
Call (509) 928-2717

**Jaco Construction, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1167  
Ephrata, WA 98823-1167  
Call (509) 787-1518

**Magnum Power, LLC**  
P.O. Box 2  
LaCenter, WA 98629  
Call (360) 901-4642\*  
(360) 901-0233\*

**Michels Power**  
P.O. Box 15059  
Tumwater, WA 98511-5059  
9433 Dowcor Lane S.W.  
Tumwater, WA 98512  
Call (360) 236-0472

**Mountain Power Construction**  
5299 N. Pleasant View Road  
Post Falls, ID 83854  
Call (208) 667-6011  
(208) 659-0832\*

**Moza Construction, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 44400 (Zip 98448-0400)  
3420 128th Street East  
Tacoma, WA 98446  
Call (253) 531-5674\*

**North Sky Engineering**  
2224 104th Avenue, E. #1  
Edgewood, WA 98372  
Call (253) 952-2128

**O'Neill Electric Inc.**  
4444 S.E. 27th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202  
Call (503) 493-6045

**Par Electrical Contractors**  
2340 Industrial Ave.  
P.O. Box 521  
Hubbard, OR 97032  
Call (503) 982-4651

**Potelco, Inc.**  
3884 Highway 99 East  
Hubbard, OR 97032  
Call (503) 902-0255

**Potelco, Inc.**  
1411 Salem Industrial Drive, N.E.  
Salem, OR 97303  
Call (253) 606-3294

**Potelco, Inc.**  
14103 Stewart Road  
Sumner, WA 98390-9622  
Call (253) 863-0484\*

**Potelco, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 15307  
Spokane, WA 99215  
Call (509) 926-6003\*

**Power City Electric, Inc.**  
3327 East Olive  
P.O. Box 2507  
Spokane, WA 99202  
Call (509) 535-8500

**Power Technology**  
1602 Guild Rd.  
Woodland, WA 98674  
Call (360) 841-8331

**Robinson Brothers Construction, Inc.**  
6150 N.E. 137th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98682  
Call (360) 576-5359

**Service Electric Co.**  
1615 First Street  
P.O. Box 1489  
Snohomish, WA 98291  
Call (360) 568-6966

**Surgeon Electric Company, Inc.**  
1500 NE Graham Road  
Troutdale, OR 97060  
Call (503) 661-1568

**Substation Solutions, LLC**  
13487 Leland Road  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
Call (503) 655-6060

**Tice Electric Company**  
5405 North Lagoon Avenue  
Portland, OR 97217  
Call (503) 233-8801  
(503) 231-3372

**Wilson Construction Company**  
1190 N.W. 3rd Ave.  
P.O. Box 1190  
Canby, OR 97013  
Call (503) 263-6882  
(503) 720-0016\*

**\*Emergency (night) numbers for firms having stand-by crews and equipment immediately available for disaster or storm repair.**