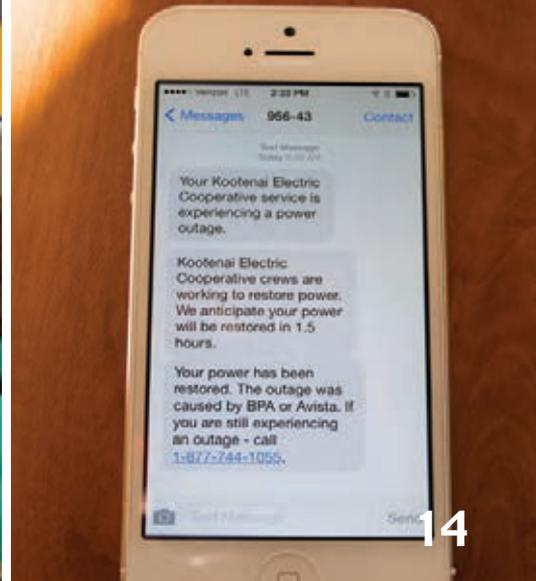


# Northwest Public Power Association **BULLETIN**

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS  
**NWPPA**  
1940-2015  
Northwest Public Power Association  
October 2015  
Volume 69, Number 10

**Utilities battle another destructive  
wildfire season here in the Northwest**





**On the cover:** Wildfires such as the Okanogan Complex Fire have ravaged parts of the Northwest this year and devastated service territories for several of our member utilities. This photo of the Okanogan Complex Fire was taken on August 22, 2015, near Riverside, Wash., by photographer Cary Ulrich.

OCTOBER 2015 • VOLUME 69 • NUMBER 10

- 3 NWPPA NEWS**
- 7 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
- 10 ENERGY EFFICIENCY**
- 12 LEGAL**
- 14 MARKETING & COMMUNICATION**
- 16 MEMBER NEWS**
- 20 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS**
- 22 WASHINGTON, D.C., REPORT**
- 24 COVER STORY**
- 30 JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)	
Publication Title	Issue Date
Northwest Public Power Association	September 2, 2015
ISSN: 1094-0049	Issue Frequency: Monthly
1. Publication Title	2. Issue Date
3. Issue Frequency	4. Issue Month
5. Issue Day	6. Issue Year
7. Issue Edition	8. Issue Number
9. Issue Volume	10. Issue Page
11. Issue Circulation	12. Issue Price
13. Issue Distribution	14. Issue Classification
15. Issue Classification	16. Issue Classification
17. Issue Classification	18. Issue Classification
19. Issue Classification	20. Issue Classification
21. Issue Classification	22. Issue Classification
23. Issue Classification	24. Issue Classification
25. Issue Classification	26. Issue Classification
27. Issue Classification	28. Issue Classification
29. Issue Classification	30. Issue Classification
31. Issue Classification	32. Issue Classification
33. Issue Classification	34. Issue Classification
35. Issue Classification	36. Issue Classification
37. Issue Classification	38. Issue Classification
39. Issue Classification	40. Issue Classification
41. Issue Classification	42. Issue Classification
43. Issue Classification	44. Issue Classification
45. Issue Classification	46. Issue Classification
47. Issue Classification	48. Issue Classification
49. Issue Classification	50. Issue Classification
51. Issue Classification	52. Issue Classification
53. Issue Classification	54. Issue Classification
55. Issue Classification	56. Issue Classification
57. Issue Classification	58. Issue Classification
59. Issue Classification	60. Issue Classification
61. Issue Classification	62. Issue Classification
63. Issue Classification	64. Issue Classification
65. Issue Classification	66. Issue Classification
67. Issue Classification	68. Issue Classification
69. Issue Classification	70. Issue Classification
71. Issue Classification	72. Issue Classification
73. Issue Classification	74. Issue Classification
75. Issue Classification	76. Issue Classification
77. Issue Classification	78. Issue Classification
79. Issue Classification	80. Issue Classification
81. Issue Classification	82. Issue Classification
83. Issue Classification	84. Issue Classification
85. Issue Classification	86. Issue Classification
87. Issue Classification	88. Issue Classification
89. Issue Classification	90. Issue Classification
91. Issue Classification	92. Issue Classification
93. Issue Classification	94. Issue Classification
95. Issue Classification	96. Issue Classification
97. Issue Classification	98. Issue Classification
99. Issue Classification	100. Issue Classification

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)	
Publication Title	Issue Date
Northwest Public Power Association	September 2, 2015
ISSN: 1094-0049	Issue Frequency: Monthly
1. Publication Title	2. Issue Date
3. Issue Frequency	4. Issue Month
5. Issue Day	6. Issue Year
7. Issue Edition	8. Issue Number
9. Issue Volume	10. Issue Page
11. Issue Circulation	12. Issue Price
13. Issue Distribution	14. Issue Classification
15. Issue Classification	16. Issue Classification
17. Issue Classification	18. Issue Classification
19. Issue Classification	20. Issue Classification
21. Issue Classification	22. Issue Classification
23. Issue Classification	24. Issue Classification
25. Issue Classification	26. Issue Classification
27. Issue Classification	28. Issue Classification
29. Issue Classification	30. Issue Classification
31. Issue Classification	32. Issue Classification
33. Issue Classification	34. Issue Classification
35. Issue Classification	36. Issue Classification
37. Issue Classification	38. Issue Classification
39. Issue Classification	40. Issue Classification
41. Issue Classification	42. Issue Classification
43. Issue Classification	44. Issue Classification
45. Issue Classification	46. Issue Classification
47. Issue Classification	48. Issue Classification
49. Issue Classification	50. Issue Classification
51. Issue Classification	52. Issue Classification
53. Issue Classification	54. Issue Classification
55. Issue Classification	56. Issue Classification
57. Issue Classification	58. Issue Classification
59. Issue Classification	60. Issue Classification
61. Issue Classification	62. Issue Classification
63. Issue Classification	64. Issue Classification
65. Issue Classification	66. Issue Classification
67. Issue Classification	68. Issue Classification
69. Issue Classification	70. Issue Classification
71. Issue Classification	72. Issue Classification
73. Issue Classification	74. Issue Classification
75. Issue Classification	76. Issue Classification
77. Issue Classification	78. Issue Classification
79. Issue Classification	80. Issue Classification
81. Issue Classification	82. Issue Classification
83. Issue Classification	84. Issue Classification
85. Issue Classification	86. Issue Classification
87. Issue Classification	88. Issue Classification
89. Issue Classification	90. Issue Classification
91. Issue Classification	92. Issue Classification
93. Issue Classification	94. Issue Classification
95. Issue Classification	96. Issue Classification
97. Issue Classification	98. Issue Classification
99. Issue Classification	100. Issue Classification

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.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)	
Publication Title	Issue Date
Northwest Public Power Association	September 2, 2015
ISSN: 1094-0049	Issue Frequency: Monthly
1. Publication Title	2. Issue Date
3. Issue Frequency	4. Issue Month
5. Issue Day	6. Issue Year
7. Issue Edition	8. Issue Number
9. Issue Volume	10. Issue Page
11. Issue Circulation	12. Issue Price
13. Issue Distribution	14. Issue Classification
15. Issue Classification	16. Issue Classification
17. Issue Classification	18. Issue Classification
19. Issue Classification	20. Issue Classification
21. Issue Classification	22. Issue Classification
23. Issue Classification	24. Issue Classification
25. Issue Classification	26. Issue Classification
27. Issue Classification	28. Issue Classification
29. Issue Classification	30. Issue Classification
31. Issue Classification	32. Issue Classification
33. Issue Classification	34. Issue Classification
35. Issue Classification	36. Issue Classification
37. Issue Classification	38. Issue Classification
39. Issue Classification	40. Issue Classification
41. Issue Classification	42. Issue Classification
43. Issue Classification	44. Issue Classification
45. Issue Classification	46. Issue Classification
47. Issue Classification	48. Issue Classification
49. Issue Classification	50. Issue Classification
51. Issue Classification	52. Issue Classification
53. Issue Classification	54. Issue Classification
55. Issue Classification	56. Issue Classification
57. Issue Classification	58. Issue Classification
59. Issue Classification	60. Issue Classification
61. Issue Classification	62. Issue Classification
63. Issue Classification	64. Issue Classification
65. Issue Classification	66. Issue Classification
67. Issue Classification	68. Issue Classification
69. Issue Classification	70. Issue Classification
71. Issue Classification	72. Issue Classification
73. Issue Classification	74. Issue Classification
75. Issue Classification	76. Issue Classification
77. Issue Classification	78. Issue Classification
79. Issue Classification	80. Issue Classification
81. Issue Classification	82. Issue Classification
83. Issue Classification	84. Issue Classification
85. Issue Classification	86. Issue Classification
87. Issue Classification	88. Issue Classification
89. Issue Classification	90. Issue Classification
91. Issue Classification	92. Issue Classification
93. Issue Classification	94. Issue Classification
95. Issue Classification	96. Issue Classification
97. Issue Classification	98. Issue Classification
99. Issue Classification	100. Issue Classification

# Conduit provides a 2015 NIC sessions mash-up

**A**t last month's Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) in Lake Tahoe, Nev., Conduit Community Manager Ben Fowler partnered with NWPPA to promote the ideas of building thought leadership and learning among attendees by having them write and share what they learned at the conference. Here is a snapshot of what attendees learned at the conference, which was held September 13-16. Because of space constraints, these are just snippets of a few of the articles; to see the full list of articles in their entirety, go to [Conduitnw.org/Pages/Browse.aspx?tag=NIC&tag=2015](http://Conduitnw.org/Pages/Browse.aspx?tag=NIC&tag=2015).



## Community Driven Success and Inter-Generational Teams: NWPPA 2015 NIC Keynote

By Virginia Mersereau, NEEA

Jake Greene, writer, lecturer, and founder of the Greene Group, was the keynote presenter at the NIC. Greene, author of "Whoa, My Boss Is Naked," was invited to speak about community-driven success and inter-generational innovation. In his presentation, "Communications, Innovation, and Generations," he provided thoughts and advice for growing creativity and innovation within the workplace.

Competition for eyeballs has never been more intense, Greene stated. Understanding how people communicate (i.e. the tools they are using) and why (i.e. what it is about those tools that make them cool) is key to developing a winning communications strategy. And, of course, you can't talk about communications today without talking about social media.

## AMI at NWPPA's 2015 Communications & Energy Innovations Conference

By Eugene Rosoli, NEEA

NWPPA's annual NIC is always a special event and this year was no exception. One of the diamonds was a presentation on advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) — sometimes confused with or referred to as advanced meter reading (AMR).

The session was titled "Taking AMI to the Next Level" and featured three utilities: two early adopters, Kootenai Electric Cooperative and Lane Electric Cooperative, and one not so early, Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Given AMI's role in the smart grid, we heard little mention of that connection; but what we did hear was a lot about savings, both in terms of dollars and time, and about improved customer service/satisfaction. The former is easy to understand because the decision to invest in AMI is based on improving operations and lower costs.

## Community Solar Energizes Public Power Communities

By Joel Myer, Mason County PUD No. 3

Clark Public Utilities' Matt Babbit said the utility was overwhelmed by the pent-up demand of customers who wanted to be a part of the solar program. Of the five projects, the first was sold out in seven hours, the second in three days, the third in 10 days, and the fourth in 10 days. There is a waiting list for the fifth project.

A participant's estimated payback is about three and a half years. The benefit comes from an annual credit on a customer's electric bill based on the electricity generated by their share of the project, and an annual Washington state production incentive of \$1.08/kWh that a customer's solar units generate through 2020.

Babbit said it's good to have a celebration. Clark Public Utilities invited community solar participants to the project ribbon cutting, and 200 showed up to inspect the results of their investment.

## Content Train — Create a Social Media Content Calendar

By Ben Fowler, NEEA

Most utilities use social media to report power outages and updates. Some utilities elevate their social game by adding in energy saving tips and community events. By developing a content calendar for their social channels, utilities can better balance coverage across social channels, more effectively optimize Web content, and work more efficiently. That was the song being sung by Megan McKoy-Noe, Ruralite Services, at the 2015 NIC.

McKoy-Noe shared a very well-organized and practical approach to creating and managing a social media content calendar. Thanks to her great presentation, her secrets to success are now ours for the taking.

## Scams! — The Next Generation

By Todd Munsey, Douglas Electric Cooperative

It's not enough of a challenge for us to educate and encourage our consumers in the ways of energy efficiency and conservation, but combating a never-ending stream of scammers is now a regular part of our communication efforts.

Ravalli Electric Cooperative's Jim Maunder presented and then led an interactive discussion about some of the most recent and creative scams targeting our consumers. While the new wave of scammers is emerging, utility personnel still deal with the miracle fireplace heaters, "energy saving" electric resistance space heaters, black boxes, and a host of other creative, and typically too-good-to-be-true products.

For more summaries of the NIC sessions, visit [conduitnw.org](http://conduitnw.org). For photos of the conference, visit NWPPA's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc](http://www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc). **NWPPA**

## NWPPA announces 2015 Excellence in Communication awards



*The 2015 Excellence in Communication winners at last month's awards banquet.*

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the Excellence in Communication contest recognizes the top communication efforts from NWPPA member utilities and associations. NWPPA presented the awards at its Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) awards banquet at Harveys in Lake Tahoe, Nev., on Tuesday, September 15.

This year, NWPPA received 176 entries from 37 different utility and association members.

"We presented 94 awards to a talented and creative group of communicators. I am proud to be associated with those who do such a great job telling the public power story," said 2015 NIC Chairman Joel Myer from Mason County PUD No. 3 in Shelton, Wash. "Congratulations again to everyone for your entries and awards!"

Categories are broken up into four groups: Group A utilities having the smallest number of customers and Group D having the largest. Nine local marketing and communication professionals volunteered their time to judge the entries. A complete list of the first-, second-, and third-place winners can be found at [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org).

In addition to the Excellence in Communication awards, NWPPA presented the 2015 Tom Hougan Award for the best overall communication effort to Clark Public Utilities in Vancouver, Wash. The utility originally won this award in 2003, and is only the second one to have won the Tom Hougan Award twice. This year, Clark Public Utilities received a perfect score (in the Special Publication category), two more first-place awards, and three second-place awards. Their over-

all score for all of their entries was an impressive 43 out of 50 points (which includes their winning entries as well as ones that did not place in the top three). Clark Public Utilities Director of Communications Lena Wittler and Corporate Communications Manager Erica Erland accepted the award on the utility's behalf at the banquet.



*Erica Erland (L) and Lena Wittler (R) accepted the Tom Hougan Award from 2015 NIC Chair Joel Myer.*

"Public power is unique when it comes to communications. We're not often cutting edge, but we are sincere customer advocates doing our best to provide timely information in creative, relevant ways — often with limited budgets and tight resources. It's an approach all of us at public utilities have in common," said Erland. "Receiving the Tom Hougan Award is truly an honor for our department, particularly after seeing all the impressive work being done by other utilities in our region."

The 2016 Excellence in Communication awards will be presented on September 13, 2016. **NWPPA**

# NWPPA honors SVP's Owens with 2015 Lacy Peoples Award

The 2015 Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Planning Committee has selected Silicon Valley Power's Larry Owens as this year's winner of the Lacy Peoples Award for his lifetime commitment to the public power industry and remarkable work in the areas of marketing and communication.

"I am honored by this award and encouraged to see an organization like NWPPA recognize the need for effective utility communications that resonate with customers' interests," said Owens. "With the explosion in social media channels, customers increasingly expect information to be timely, pertinent, accessible, and easily digestible, whether it's responsible energy usage, education about the modern grid, or news about the local utility."

Owens has over 20 years of experience in the utility world. In 1993, he took a position as energy conservation specialist at Silicon Valley Power in Santa Clara, Calif., and he has not left. Today he is manager of Customer Services and Marketing there, overseeing the marketing communications, key customer services, energy-efficiency, and renewable energy programs, dark fiber leasing, as well as the development of online information products and services for customers.

First given to Lacy Peoples of Cowlitz PUD at the Consumer Services/Communications Conference in 1978, the award is now presented to recipients at the annual Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference. Current or former employees of NWPPA member utilities are eligible to receive this award. The Conference Planning Committee selects recipients based on accomplishments through at least 10 years of marketing and communication experience; at least 20 years of service to the industry; and promotion of public power through efforts such as community service and energy efficiency.

Recent Lacy Peoples Award winners include Teresa Lackey of Midstate Electric Cooperative (2014), Phil Steyer of Chugach Electric Association (2012), and Julee Cunningham of Snohomish County PUD (2011). **NWPPA**



*(L-R) Larry Owens received the 2015 Lacy Peoples Award from 2015 NIC Chair Joel Myer.*

# NWPPA honors Tim Lammers with inaugural Jim Brands Award

For the inaugural Jim Brands Award for energy efficiency, the 2015 Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Planning Committee has selected Columbia River PUD's Tim Lammers.

"In addition to his success in Energy Services, Tim is a tireless public power advocate and a well-respected community member," said PUD Customer Services Manager Rick Lugar. "There are many deserving nominees for this award in our industry, but I know of few who can match Tim's commitment to the energy efficiency industry, to public power, and to the betterment of his community."

Lammers has served Columbia River PUD customers since 1998, and spent more than 20 years in customer service and energy efficiency prior to joining the PUD. He has received several accolades for his contributions over the years, including being selected as the 2008 Energy Manager of the Year from the Association of Professional Energy

Managers and receiving the 2011 Chairman's Award of Excellence from the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. He was also recognized as the PUD's employee of the year in 2004. Within Columbia County, Lammers has participated in a variety of civic organizations, including the St. Helens School Board, the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, the Daybreakers Kiwanis Club, and the Ford Family Foundation's Leadership Institute.

*Continued on page 6*



*Tim Lammers thanking his industry colleagues upon receiving the 2015 Jim Brands Award for energy efficiency.*

“This award is a tremendous honor for me,” said Lammers. “Jim was not only an industry colleague, but he was a friend and someone I respected.”

This new award honors Jim Brands and his 35-year career in the electric utility and energy efficiency industries. Brands, a previous employee of NWPPA and longtime friend to the public power industry, passed away last year from cancer at the age of 61.

Going forward, the award will continue to be presented at the annual NIC banquet. Current or former employees of NWPPA member utilities are eligible to receive this award. The Conference Planning Committee selects recipients based on accomplishments through at least 10 years of energy efficiency experience; at least 20 years of service to the industry; and promotion of public power through efforts such as community service and energy efficiency. **NWPPA**

## North Slope Borough joins NWPPA

**N**WPPA would like to welcome the North Slope Borough (NSB) Power & Light (Alaska) to the association as our newest utility member.

The mission of the North Slope Borough is that it is “committed to having healthy communities, economically, spiritually, and culturally. The Borough works with the tribes, cities, corporations, schools, and businesses to support a strong culture, encourage families, and employees to choose a healthy lifestyle, and sustain a vibrant economy.”

NSB Power and Light operates and maintains the power plants and distribution of electric energy in all seven villages, but not in Barrow. Manager Max Ahgeak leads the Power & Light Division.

For more information, visit [www.north-slope.org](http://www.north-slope.org). **NWPPA**

## NWPPA rolls out new dues calculator for utility members

**I**n the August *Bulletin*, we explained that the NWPPA Board of Trustees has changed the Association’s dues structure (previously, dues were solely based on retail kilowatt-hour sales) to include two other attributes in addition to retail kilowatt-hour sales. As a result, dues will now be based on a three-factor formula: the retail kilowatt-hour sales; the number of non-seasonal retail meters for commercial and residential customers; and the number of full-time employees. The committee also recommended to no longer charge extra for Education Sustaining Membership (ESM) dues; in 2016, all members will enjoy the lowest cost on classes, workshops, and conferences without paying extra to get the lowest ESM rates.

To assist with estimating your 2016 dues investment, we have designed a simple spreadsheet for utility members to use. Look for this spreadsheet, titled the Utility Dues Calculator, on [nwppa.org](http://nwppa.org) under Member Resources.

In the yellow-highlighted spreadsheet fields, input the following data:

- The 2014 kilowatt-hours from retail sales
- The number of electric meters
- The number of full-time-equivalent electric employees

After you have entered those three variables, your 2016 estimated dues investment will be highlighted in blue at the bottom of the spreadsheet.

COMPUTATION FORM	
<b>Step 1</b>	
List electric operating Kwh from retail sales to ultimate electric consumer (not for resale); number of electric meters; and number of electric utility employees (full-time equivalent)	
Data Year	2014
Retail kWh sales of	0
# of Electric Meters	0
# of Electric Employees (FTE)	0
<b>Step 2</b>	
Apply Billing Determinants:	
Base Investment	1,000.00
Rate	0.024
GWh =	-
Meter =	-
Employee =	-
Subtotal	\$1,000.00
<b>Step 3</b>	
Apply Billing Determinant Cap:	
NWPPA Dues	

We will be mailing membership investment renewal letters in November. If you have any questions about the new dues structure, please contact Brian Hess at (360) 816-1444. We look forward to continuing to serve your membership needs in the years to come. **NWPPA**

## A piece of NWPPA history: www.nwppa.org

It's been nearly 20 years since NWPPA's first website went live in the mid-90s. Today, www.nwppa.org is more of an integral part of our communications arsenal than it ever has been. After several different platforms and redesigns, our current website now gets nearly 500,000 unique page views per year.



Of all of the pages on www.nwppa.org, members visit the Job Marts page the most. We receive about 550 posts per year; in 2014, the webpage received 176,743 views. However, it's not a new service offered by NWPPA; the first Job Marts appeared in the *Bulletin* in 1949!

In addition to posting and searching open Job Marts, members can use the site to register for events; learn about our Government Relations Committee's actions and resolutions; read archived publications such as the *Bulletin* and the *eBulletin*; update their personal information; and much, much more.

Just last month, we launched the latest incarnation of www.nwppa.org and have already received rave reviews from members about its sleeker look. Today's website features enhanced graphics, video capabilities, and a more user-friendly platform for our members. It's definitely a huge difference (and improvement!) from our original website launched in the 90s.

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.

September's diamond was on page 28 on the toolbelt of the Avista employee in the blue shirt.

Congratulations to September's winner: Susan Knudsen Obermeyer from Lane Electric Cooperative in Eugene, Ore. NWPPA



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago — 1965

APPA noted that utilities were shifting to envelope billing in order to permit use of bill stuffers for advertising ... Okanogan PUD's Vern Ritter, formerly the chief engineer, was promoted to assistant manager (Wash.) ... Matanuska Electric Association adopted an end rate of 1.6 cents/kilowatt-hour to encourage house heating (Alaska) ... The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) announced that new homes normally must be served by underground electric distribution cable in order to qualify for an FHA-insured mortgage ... Excavation started for the Boundary Dam following completion of the downstream cofferdam (Wash.).

### 25 years ago — 1990

Gail Patterson joined the staff at NWPPA as a receptionist and today is our second longest-serving employee; she is now our registration/database administrator ... Orcas Power & Light Company laid a 69-kilovolt fluid-filled submarine cable between Lopez Island and the San Juan Island in Washington ... Northern Lights, Inc. donated \$30,000 of satellite equipment to students in Idaho and Montana; the equipment allowed teachers to qualify for certification while remaining in their home communities and provided enrichment programs to students ... Naknek Electric Association chose Meera Kohler as general manager (Alaska).

### 5 years ago — 2010

Emerald PUD gave more than 200 customer-owners the opportunity to participate in a pilot program to test a part of the smart grid in their homes (Ore.) ... The City of Port Angeles recruited homeowners for an experiment on how to store surplus wind power (Wash.) ... After 31 years of service to Kodiak Electric Association, Jesse Holmes retired; Rob Lindsey filled his position as power system dispatcher/operator (Alaska) ... Clatskanie PUD installed a webcam at the construction site of their new headquarters that will allow viewers to watch the construction progress (Ore.) ... Chelan County PUD promoted Kelly Boyd to the position of chief financial and risk officer (Wash.). NWPPA

# November and December 2015, and January 2016

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

### STAKING TECHNICIAN PROGRAM: UNDERGROUND LINE DESIGN AND SUBDIVISION LAYOUT

Who Should Attend: Staking engineers.  
NOVEMBER 2-5, 2015 — BOISE, IDAHO

### FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP SESSION #5: SUPERVISING UNION EMPLOYEES

Who Should Attend: Operations directors, managers, line superintendents, labor relations professionals, and human resource managers who supervise union employees and deal with stewards and officers of the union. (This is an optional course in the Front Line Leadership Certificate Program.)  
NOVEMBER 3-5, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.

### FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: REDUCING CONFLICTS; COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.  
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

### ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Who Should Attend: Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering; operations; safety; purchasing; information technology; regulatory and rates; customer service; public relations; legal; and accounting employees.  
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.

### STAKING TECHNICIAN PROGRAM: JOINT-USE STAKING AND MAKE-READY SURVEYS

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.  
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2015 — BOISE, IDAHO

### ONLINE: WAREHOUSE CERTIFICATE SERIES SESSION #3: WEBINARS 1 & 2 – WAREHOUSE SAFETY AND WORKING WITH PEOPLE

Who Should Attend: Warehouse and materials management professionals.  
NOVEMBER 4-17, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

### STAKING TECHNICIAN PROGRAM: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Who Should Attend: Staking technicians.  
NOVEMBER 5-6, 2015 — BOISE, IDAHO

### FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP #3: PERSONALITIES AND ATTITUDES IN THE WORKPLACE

Who Should Attend: Front line supervisors and managers that have completed *Front Line Leadership Session #1: Situational Leadership*, as well as those front line employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future and have completed *Front Line Leadership Session #1: Situational Leadership*.  
NOVEMBER 17-18, 2015 — SPOKANE, 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.  
NOVEMBER 17-19, 2015 — SPOKANE, 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.  
NOVEMBER 17, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

### LINEMAN SKILLS SERIES: DAY 2 – AC SYSTEM TROUBLE-SHOOTING

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.  
NOVEMBER 18, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

### FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: REDUCING CONFLICTS; COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders. (Please note that classes in this series may be taken in any order.)  
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2015 — ROSEVILLE, CALIF.

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

Who Should Attend: All electrical workers involved in personal protective grounding.  
NOVEMBER 19, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.

### KEY TOPICS IN UTILITY ACCOUNTING

Who Should Attend: Employees who are new to the utility accounting; employees in the industry who need to understand the special requirements of utility accounting; and employees who would like a more in-depth understanding of utility accounting systems.  
DECEMBER 1-2, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.

### FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #3: REDUCING CONFLICTS; COMMUNICATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders. (Please note that classes in this series may be taken in any order.)  
DECEMBER 1-2, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

### MONITORING BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Who Should Attend: Finance and accounting employees; senior management or policy makers; or any employee seeking to increase his or her knowledge of the budgeting process that takes place at electric utilities.  
DECEMBER 3, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.

### FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4: DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT SKILLS & BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE WORK GROUP

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders. (Please note that classes in this series may be taken in any order.)  
DECEMBER 3-4, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

#### **FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4: DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT SKILLS & BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE WORK GROUP**

**Who Should Attend:** Foremen and crew leaders. (Please note that classes in this series may be taken in any order.)

**DECEMBER 8-9, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: ALL FOUR DAYS**

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

**DECEMBER 8-11, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

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

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

**DECEMBER 8, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

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

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

**DECEMBER 9, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE LEVEL 1: DAY 3 — UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF ELECTRICITY, GENERATION THROUGH DISTRIBUTION**

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

**DECEMBER 10, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

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

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

#### **FOREMAN LEADERSHIP SKILLS #4: DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT SKILLS & BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE WORK GROUP**

**Who Should Attend:** Foremen and crew leaders. (Please note that classes in this series may be taken in any order.)

**DECEMBER 16-17, 2015 — ROSEVILLE, CALIF.**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING**

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

**JANUARY 12, 2016 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP #4, SERIES 3: LEAD YOUR ORGANIZATION — TOOLS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

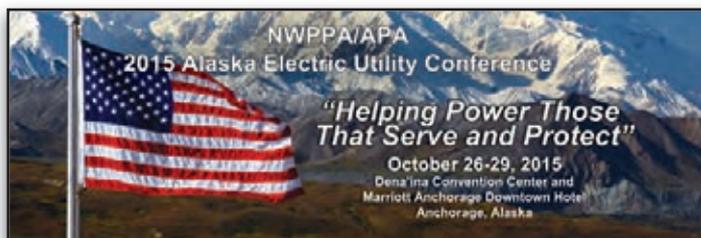
**Who Should Attend:** Foremen and crew leaders.

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

#### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS SERIES (FORMERLY FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP) SESSION #5: SUPERVISING UNION EMPLOYEES**

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

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



**Don't miss these two great October events.**

**Register today!**



by Melissa Carlin

# Homer Electric promotes efficiency with its annual Energy & Conservation Fair



HEA Member Support Representative Randall White answers questions at the Member Services booth at the annual Energy & Conservation Fair. Photos provided by Homer Electric Association.

**H**omer Electric Association, Inc. serves over 33,300 meters across a diverse service territory covering 3,166 square miles on the southern Kenai Peninsula of Alaska.

With Homer Electric focusing on generating its own power, the cooperative strives to counter the burden of potential rate increases for our members by providing valuable energy-efficient programs and information while providing the most reliable service.

Homer Electric Association hosts an annual one-day Energy & Conservation Fair which showcases timely, applicable information and workshops about energy-efficient products and conservation methods available in the local communities. The event encompasses a community fair atmosphere involving local vendors and other qualified business professionals that demonstrate and implement real energy cost-savings techniques. Homer Electric's Energy & Conservation Fair fosters a one-stop informational shopping method for our members at no cost: exhibitors showcase their industry expertise in the latest home energy programs, lighting, doors

and windows, recycling, appliances, renewable energy, heating, energy monitoring, and other conservation efforts.

"Homer Electric's Energy & Conservation Fair comes at a timely season when our members will start seeing their electric and fuel usage increase as winter in Alaska approaches," said Joe Gallagher, the director of member relations for the cooperative. "Educating our members and heightening their awareness of what is available to them regarding the latest energy-efficiency technologies, resources, and products is received with open arms — it brings value to our communities when they need it the most."

The main purpose of the Energy Fair is to empower members by offering sensible energy solutions and resources in which they can manage their electric consumption and conservation. The fair fosters the cooperative's commitment to helping members find ways to manage their energy consumption; and to become the members' valued, trusted partner in finding the right energy solution to meet their specific needs.

In its seventh year, the annual Energy & Conservation



Fair is a huge success with typically over 800 residents attending the event. Based on surveys completed from the past events, Homer Electric has met a community niche for the ongoing pursuit of energy efficiency and conservation resources by our membership.

In addition to efficiency and conservation experts, the event is family friendly; children's activities and prizes are provided, as well as complementary food and beverages. The cooperative also features its Student Energy Efficiency Contest winning entries and awards the prizes as one of the highlights of the fair.

Homer Electric has had the pleasure of working with several organizations and businesses in a cooperative effort to provide timely information to our communities while fostering energy efficiency and conservation awareness, participation, and ownership.

This year's Energy & Conservation Fair was earlier this month, on October 3, in Soldotna, Alaska, at the Soldotna High School from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Homer Electric partnered with Shred Alaska to host a free shred event during the fair; attendees were invited to bring up to 150 pounds of documents for complimentary on-site shredding. Nearly 30 exhibitors and 15 sponsors participated in this year's



*Kathy McDonough, HEA's manager of Engineering Services, answers questions about Homer Electric's Net Metering Program at the cooperative's Interconnection Booth.*

fair, making it another successful one for Homer Electric and its members. **NWPPA**

*Melissa Carlin is the communications specialist for Homer Electric Association. She can be contacted at either MCarlin@HomerElectric.com or (907) 235-3338.*

# FOR THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO MORE.

Your ambitions are limitless—and your potential for growth should be too.

Now taking applications for Spring, 2016.

[willamette.edu/go/utility-management](http://willamette.edu/go/utility-management) | 503.370.6791

 **WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY** | **MBA**  
Utility Management Certificate

# Personal liability of public officials

**P**ublic officials may be personally liable for an unlawful expenditure of public funds. Under Oregon law, for example, ORS 294.100(1) states that “[i]t is unlawful for any public official to expend any moneys in excess of the amounts provided by law, or for any other or different purpose than provided by law.” This principle is not limited to Oregon; nearly every state has a similar statute or rule. The specter of personal liability should raise red flags for all employees and directors of municipal utilities and PUDs. This article will discuss the legal underpinnings of potential personal liability and offer advice on how it may be mitigated.

The majority of the cases discussing the potential personal liability of public officials involve the unlawful expenditure of public funds for campaign purposes. For example, in *Burt v. Blumenauer* the Oregon Supreme Court has affirmed that public officials may be personally obligated to repay any public funds spent in promoting a policy in favor of water fluoridation. The court analyzed the distinction between providing information promoting public health and advocating in favor of a specific government action. The court found that the defendants had crossed the line by paying the salaries of persons and hiring advertising firms to promote fluoridation.

The same rule has been applied directly to public officials of consumer-owned utilities. In *Porter v. Tiffany*, for example, the Oregon Court of Appeals considered whether the commissioners of a municipal utility could be held personally liable for funds spent in connection with two election measures. The funds were spent advocating in favor of a public vote authorizing the issuance and sale of \$225 million in bonds to allow the utility to participate in a nuclear power program. First, the court affirmed that utility ratepayer money qualifies as “public funds” for purposes of the statute. Second, the court concluded that the campaign expenditures were not authorized by statute or charter.

Public officials should be aware that this rule applies to any unlawful use of public funds, and impermissible campaigning is but one example of that. In *Thompson v. Clatskanie PUD*, for example, the Oregon Court of Appeals considered whether the directors of a PUD unlawfully expended public funds by paying a salary to a director who was simultaneously receiving pay as a county commissioner. The court’s decision implies, without expressly holding, that if the director had been double-paid in violation of state law, then the PUD commissioners may be personally liable for the unlawful expenditure.

Public officials should also be aware that this rule is not limited to elected directors or commissioners, but includes all employees of the public body. ORS 244.020(14) defines “public official” to include:

*The specter of personal liability should raise red flags for all employees and directors of municipal utilities and PUDs. This article will discuss the legal underpinnings of potential personal liability and offer advice on how it may be mitigated.*

---

*[A]ny person who, when an alleged violation of this chapter occurs, is serving the State of Oregon or any of its political subdivisions or any other public body as defined in ORS 174.109 (Public body defined) as an elected official, appointed official, employee or agent, irrespective of whether the person is compensated for the services.*

This means that all employees of a consumer-owned utility that are responsible for making decisions about an expenditure of public funds should be aware of their responsibility and potential personal liability.

In construing the personal liability laws, the courts have been clear that acting in “good faith” is not a defense. In *Bear Creek Valley Sanitary Authority v. Hopkins*, certain taxpayers asserted that the directors of a sanitary authority were personally liable for spending bond funds issued to finance a sewer construction project for purposes other than what was authorized by the bond measure. The directors argued that they should not be found personally liable because there was no harm done to the public body and because they acted in good faith. The court rejected this as a potential defense:

*It also appears that there was no dishonesty or self-dealing by the directors, and there is no allegation by plaintiffs that defendants personally profited by the expenditures made. We conclude, however, that ORS 294.100 and ORS 450.920, when read together, provide that defendants could be held liable for expenditures of bond proceeds for purposes other than those indicated in the order calling for the election on the issuance of the bonds.*

In other words, the plaintiffs do not have to prove “intent” in order to establish personal liability.

The best defense against a claim of unlawful expenditure of public funds is that the public official in question

was following the advice of qualified legal counsel. In Bear Creek, the directors also argued that there could be no personal liability because they were acting upon the advice of legal counsel. The court agreed, saying “[w]e do not believe that local officials should be required to make complex decisions regarding expenditures of public funds without the advice of counsel and at their own risk.” The court further explained that “[i]n order to establish the defense of advice of counsel defendants must show that they relied in good faith and without personal benefit upon the advice that was given by their attorney.”

It is not enough to seek and receive the advice of counsel — public officials must also follow such advice. In the *Porter v. Tiffany* case discussed above, the commissioners tried to assert that they had relied on advice of their legal counsel. The court noted that “the trial court found that defendants had relied upon the advice of counsel. That finding is not supported by the record. Defendants offered no testimony or

exhibits which tend to show either reliance upon the advice of counsel, or the nature of that advice.” The court continued: “Even if we assume that this was the advice of counsel, it is clear from the exhibits and the testimony that such advice was not followed.”

Beyond establishing a defense against personal liability, good legal advice can help prevent a violation of law in the first place. Obviously a public official cannot be found personally liable for an expenditure that is, in fact, authorized by law. As the Bear Creek court noted, the determination of what expenditures may or may not be permitted by law can be “complex.” Seeking and relying on the advice of well-qualified legal counsel can help to avoid such claims of unauthorized expenditures in the first place. **NWPPA**

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

## Piper Jaffray is committed to Northwest public power

No matter the market condition, we help clients finance projects that help move their utility forward.

*To begin your journey, contact us:*

Seattle Office  
1420 5th Ave, Suite 4300  
Seattle WA 98101  
206 628-2880  
[www.piperjaffray.com](http://www.piperjaffray.com)

Since 1895. Member SIPC and NYSE.  
© 2013 Piper Jaffray & Co. 12/13 CM-13-0480 [piperjaffray.com](http://piperjaffray.com)

GUIDES FOR  
THE JOURNEY.®

PiperJaffray.

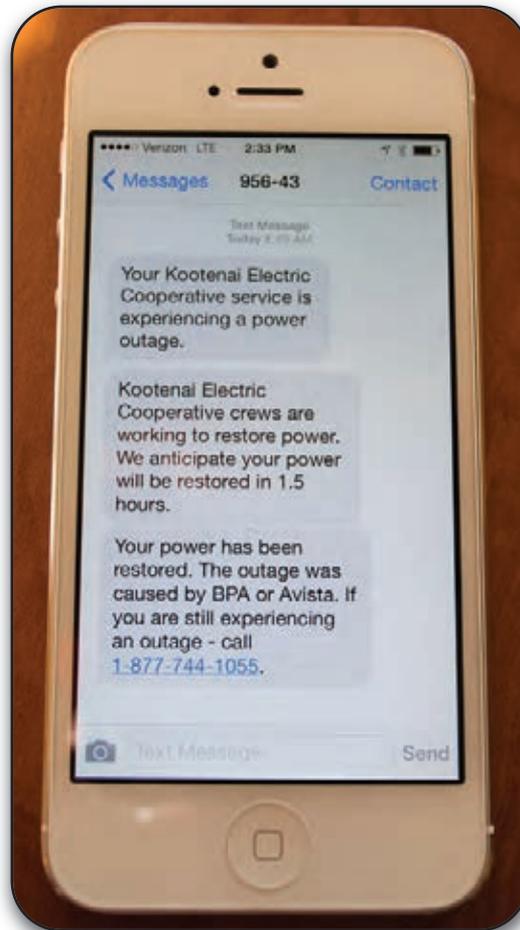
# When communicating during outages, don't leave your consumers in the dark!

**E**lectric consumers today have high expectations when it comes to outage communications, and rightfully so. At Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC) in Hayden, Idaho, we're doing everything we can to communicate outage information effectively. And, in many cases, we're getting our members this information before they can even contact us. We believe strategic internal and external communications can prevent our members from feeling left in the dark.

By regularly surveying our members, we've learned that, although they find the monthly newsletter informative, they want to receive more information via email, text, and social media. We heard this loud and clear, and KEC's automated metering infrastructure (AMI) allows us to do just that.

It all started with KEC's adoption of AMI in 2002 and the development of a home-grown outage management system (OMS). Integrating our AMI and OMS allowed almost instant communication with each meter on our lines, giving dispatchers the scope of outages within a few moments of receiving outage calls. KEC directs members to report outages to our dedicated outage hotline. The hotline includes updates so members can also hear the status and an estimated restoration time. However, when an outage occurs during office hours, our front office staff are often inundated with calls from members wanting updates. Our goal is to direct members to our outage hotline, website, and social media pages to reduce these calls.

When an outage is created in KEC's OMS, emails and text messages are automatically generated and sent to key employees. This includes a map of the outage, the number of members affected, and the name of the employee who created the outage. If there is a key account in the outage area, another message is sent to two key employees so addi-



*Participating Kootenai Electric Cooperative members receive either a text message (like the above ones) or an email when their service experiences an outage.*

tional contact can be made with these members. Member Services staff taking member phone calls also receive the emails so they can share up-to-date information with members by phone. These messages also help Communications staff answer media calls and post social media updates.

At the same time, KEC's OMS automatically updates the outage map on our website. Members can enter their address on this page and see the exact locations of power outages and how many members are affected. We use Google Analytics to track site traffic; during large outages this page quickly becomes the most viewed page on our website. Local news media also use this page to stay updated on power outages.

After several years of using outage texts and emails internally, we launched this service to our members — for free. Participating members receive either a text message or email when their service experiences an outage. The texts give members periodic updates on the estimated restoration time, status, and cause of the outage affecting their residence or business. Nearly every member offered the program signs up for it. More than 5,500 members are currently participating in the program and to date we have sent out nearly 17,000 text messages. We've found texting to be extremely cost effective; since the program's launch, we have spent less than \$700 to send out all of those texts. We also believe this offering is helping us better connect with our younger members — an ongoing challenge of ours.

Utilities considering the use of texting should be aware that the Federal Communications Commission recently adopted a Declaratory Ruling and Order to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act which, among other things, regulates how businesses may contact their customers via the telephone. We are closely following this and how it will impact the text messaging aspect of our program.

During large outages (500 members or more) we post periodic updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages to help members stay informed. We also respond to private messages and posts on Facebook about outages, giving members another way to communicate with us. Two Communications staff members share this responsibility.

With each large outage we see a bump in our Facebook “likes.” We’ve also boosted, or advertised, some of our posts sharing our website outage map link. This encourages our members to visit our website or social media pages to find out about outages rather than calling our office. We’ve had good success with this approach and the cost is minimal. Our members are very appreciative of any social media updates on power outages and are also highly complementary of our line crews working to restore power.

Like all electric utilities, one of our top priorities is providing reliable power. However, when we do have power outages, communication is a key part of member satisfaction and we believe the strategies we’re using are improving our member satisfaction. In fact, last year, we were awarded our highest American Consumer Satisfaction Index score ever — a 90.

Looking forward, KEC has more change on the horizon. After more than a decade using our home-grown OMS, we recently converted to NISC’s OMS (we already use NISC’s CIS/ABS software). The NISC product replicates all of the functions and messaging features of our home-grown OMS without the burden of maintaining an in-house application. It will also benefit our members by allowing them to report outages online using the SmartHub product (a Web portal and mobile app).

NWPPA

*Erika Neff, CCC is the communications coordinator at Kootenai Electric Cooperative in Hayden, Idaho. She can be contacted at [eneff@kec.com](mailto:eneff@kec.com).*



 **24/7** <sup>365</sup>

Being available for your members round-the-clock has never been easier.

**CRC**<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative Response Center, Inc.  
contact-dispatch center | alarm monitoring  
[www.crc.coop](http://www.crc.coop) | 800-892-1578 | [info@crc.coop](mailto:info@crc.coop)



## Nguyen appointed as Columbia River’s interim GM

At its August 25 special meeting, the Columbia River PUD (St. Helens, Ore.) Board of Directors appointed **John Nguyen** as interim general manager, replacing **Rick Lugar**.

“We feel Mr. Nguyen is the best choice for interim general manager and we look forward to working with him to find ways to help the PUD operate even more reliably, efficiently, and effectively,” said PUD Board Vice President **Jake Carter**.

Nguyen led the PUD’s information technology efforts from 1987 through 2013 and returned to the PUD in June 2015 as a special projects manager. He holds a bachelor’s degree in science from Portland State University, with a focus in both electrical engineering and computer science.

“I look forward to working with the board and staff to ensure that we continue to provide the reliable, affordable electricity and great customer service the PUD is known for,” said Nguyen.

Lugar will return to his role as the PUD’s Customer Services manager. Carter thanked him for his service as interim general manager: “Rick, I appreciate the contributions you have made over the past five months.” **NWPPA**



## MEA announces new power plant manager

**M**atanuska Electric Association, Inc. (Palmer, Alaska) has promoted **Michael Mann** to the position of plant manager of the Eklutna Generation Station (EGS), MEA’s power plant that provides power to 50,000 members from Eagle River to Talkeetna. Prior to this promotion, Mann served as EGS operations supervisor and was an integral part of the successful startup and operations of the plant. Prior to joining MEA in 2013, Mann held management positions in several large power plants across the U.S., including a large nuclear power plant. As plant manager he will oversee all aspects of the EGS power plant, including maintenance and operations of the 171-megawatt facility.

MEA Director of Power Supply **Tony Zellers** said, “MEA is proud to have Mr. Mann’s level of expertise managing our power plant. He brings three decades of invaluable experience and we are fortunate to have him in this position.”

The previous plant manager, **Gary Peers**, retired in July to pursue interests in Hawaii and British Columbia. **NWPPA**

## Seubert retains position, Shorey elected to Lane Electric Board

At Lane Electric’s (Eugene, Ore.) Annual Membership Meeting on August 22, the ballots were cast and the vote was final: **Chris Seubert** retained his position and **Jerry Shorey** was elected to the Lane Electric Board of Directors, both for three-year terms.

Seubert, who is retired, has served on the Lane Electric Board of Directors since 2003 and will continue with another three-year term for the Central District. He is a credentialed director through NRECA and has completed the Board Leadership Training. He serves as the current president of Lane Electric’s board, current vice president of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA), current member of the NRECA Director Advisory Board, and the chair of Edgewood Elementary School Direct Drive Campaign; he is also a past member of the NRECA Resolutions Committee.

Newly elected Shorey will serve in one of two director positions in Lane Electric’s Oakridge District. Shorey graduated from Oakridge High School, attended Clackamas Community College, Community College of The Air Force, and is certified in emergency medical training. Soon, he will begin his classes to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Shorey sat on the Estacada School Board during 1978-1982; served on the Oakridge Fire Service and was the chief of the department; sat on the Oakridge City Council during 1970-1974 and 2008-2013; and served as the Oakridge mayor during 2013-2015. Currently, he is president of the Oakridge/Westfir Chamber of Commerce, president of the Forest Vale Memorial Park Cemetery Board, and member at large of the City of Oakridge Budget Committee. **NWPPA**



Chris Seubert



Jerry Shorey

## PCWA completes intertie project

**T**he Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.) and San Juan Water District announced on September 17 that they have completed construction of the Barton Road Intertie. The project connects PCWA’s and San Juan’s treated water systems, increasing service reliability for both agencies.

The intertie project consists of 2,700 feet of underground pipe within Barton Road, an emergency pump, and instrumentation and control systems. By connecting the two water systems, San Juan and PCWA can provide water to one another at a daily capacity of two million gallons per day, enough to service over 2,000 households.

“We’re very excited about completion of the project,” San Juan Water District General Manager **Shauna**

**Lorance** said. “With current drought conditions, the intertie provides a much-needed mutual benefit.”

The total cost for the project is approximately \$1.5 million. Roughly half the cost was covered by Proposition 84 funds awarded to the Regional Water Authority (RWA) through its 2014 Integrated Regional Water Management Drought Grant application. PCWA and San Juan Water District equally split the remaining costs.

“PCWA is proud to partner with San Juan Water District on the Barton Road Intertie and is thankful to the District for leading the project on behalf of both of us,” said PCWA General Manager **Einar Maisch**. “We are also grateful to RWA for recognizing the importance of this project and providing a means to obtain a portion of the funding.”

The project ran a successful operational test on September 11. **NWPPA**



*PCWA water distribution operator Don Miller conducts testing alongside the construction crews.*

## Hall steps down from OPALCO Board

**O**PALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) Board Member **Glenna Hall** has announced her resignation due to health issues. Hall represented District 1 (San Juan, Brown, Henry, Pearl, and Spieden islands). The Board will appoint a new board member to fill the vacancy until Hall’s term is up in 2017, in accordance with the bylaws.

“I want to take this opportunity to praise the co-op, its members, staff, leadership team, and board, and to thank the members for allowing me to be part of an organization with an important heritage and a brilliant future,” said Hall. “I especially hold in esteem my fellow directors, who each have contributed tremendous knowledge and analysis, strongly held opinions of their own, and an ability to work together for the good of the members.” **NWPPA**

## Rocky Reach turbine repairs stay on schedule

**O**n September 8, Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioners heard that turbine repairs for the four largest units at Rocky Reach Dam are on schedule.

**Brett Bickford**, Engineering and Project Management director, updated commissioners on the schedule for repair

of unit C8 and on plans to give the contractor notice that week to proceed on ordering long-lead time equipment for a second unit. The work follows strategic direction from commissioners to invest in key PUD assets and people.

Turbine repairs on the first unit, including commissioning, are expected to take through the first quarter of 2017. The outage to begin work on the second unit is currently estimated for June 2017. Schedules could change depending on work to repair windings in the generators of the four units that will be done at the same time under a separate contract.

Bickford said the long-lead items for the second unit are in the scope of the contract and the estimated \$800,000 cost is part of 2016 budget plans. **NWPPA**

## Johnston named new GM of ML&P

**A**nchorage Mayor **Ethan Berkowitz** has appointed **Mark Johnston** as general manager of Municipal Light and Power; Johnston previously served as acting general manager and CFO.

“ML&P will create a brighter and more efficient Anchorage. Mark’s blend of financial experience and regulatory understanding will benefit our customers and strengthen an important community asset,” said Mayor Berkowitz.

Johnston has also held executive and management level finance positions at the Alaska Public Utilities Commission, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Alaska Railroad Corp., and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Nevada and has been a certified public accountant in Alaska since 1996.

“I’m appreciative of Mayor Berkowitz for this opportunity to serve ML&P’s customers and the municipality. I look forward to partnering with the mayor to continue the utility’s legacy of delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to Anchorage,” said Johnston. **NWPPA**



## Benton PUD bond rating affirmed at A+

**F**itch Ratings affirmed its A+ rating with a stable outlook on Benton PUD’s (Kennewick, Wash.) electric revenue bonds.

Fitch Ratings attributed the excellent rating to Benton PUD’s competitive rates, favorable power supply, low debt levels, growing economy, and history of maintaining solid financial metrics. The stable outlook reflects Fitch’s expectation that Benton PUD will maintain financial metrics consistent with median ratios for the rating category.

The Fitch Ratings report on Benton PUD can be viewed on the Benton PUD website at BentonPUD.org. **NWPPA**

### Pend Oreille's general manager resigns

During a special meeting of the board of commissioners on September 8, **John Jordan**, Pend Oreille PUD's (Newport, Wash.) general manager, announced his immediate retirement. Jordan and the board had been discussing a December 31, 2015, retirement date; however, for personal reasons, Jordan felt it best to retire now, rather than at year's end. The board accepted his retirement notice.



The board has named **April Owen** as acting general manager and is confident that the PUD will continue to be in good hands moving forward. They sincerely wish the best for Jordan and his family in his retirement years.

"I would like to thank our employees, as well as the commissioners, for the opportunity to work with them and sincerely wish each of them, and their families, good health and good fortune," said Jordan. **NWPPA**

### Rancho Seco property to host 10-MW solar array

The SMUD Board of Directors has approved a solar photovoltaic (PV) construction project and a 20-year power purchase agreement for a 10.88-megawatt solar array on approximately 62 acres of SMUD property at Rancho Seco, Calif.

The solar-power-generating facility will be owned by First Solar, which develops utility-scale PV power plants. The power purchased from the project will provide energy for SMUD's commercial SolarShares program.

The Rancho Seco PV project will provide many energy and environmental benefits to SMUD customers. With nearly 11 megawatts of capacity, the project will annually deliver nearly 23,000 megawatt hours of clean, renewable, non-carbon-emitting power at peak demand. The project makes use of existing previously developed land and SMUD-owned power lines, which help to minimize the environmental impact of the project.

The Rancho Seco site hosted one of the first utility-scale solar arrays in the world when it was built in 1984 adjacent to the now-decommissioned Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station. The first Rancho Seco solar arrays had a capacity of 3.2 megawatts — a lot of power in 1984. Five of the six arrays were decommissioned in 2013 as the technology reached its end of life.

The SMUD Board approved the project following completion of the California Environmental Quality Act study. Construction is expected to begin towards the end of the year and is expected to begin producing energy by the third quarter of 2016. **NWPPA**

### EWEB rolls out EV-related loan program

To celebrate National Drive Electric Week, the Eugene Water & Electric Board (Ore.) introduced a new loan program for businesses, fleet operators, and multifamily housing owners to encourage the purchase and use of electric vehicles.

The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Loan Program provides low-interest loans for commercial customers to purchase and install Level 1, Level 2, or DC fast chargers at their place of business for employee and public use, as well as in multifamily housing with shared parking for tenants.

To qualify, applicants must be EWEB commercial customers, the chargers must be within the utility's service area, and the charger(s) must be hardwired to a wall or pedestal mounted and listed by Underwriters Laboratories.

In addition to reducing or eliminating carbon emissions, EVs are significantly less expensive to operate than cars, trucks, and vans powered by fossil fuels. For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates the Nissan LEAF can go about 99 miles on the energy equivalent of one gallon of gasoline. The agency estimates that EV drivers can operate their vehicles for the equivalent of \$1 per gallon. While different plug-in vehicles have different systems and yield different miles per gallon equivalents, technology is improving at a rapid pace.

Along with the EWEB loan program, there are also federal and state tax credits for the purchase of EVs and charging stations.

For more information on EWEB's commercial loan program and EVs in general, visit [eweb.org/ev](http://eweb.org/ev). **NWPPA**

### BPA promotes Mike Miller to VP

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has selected **Mike Miller** to be its vice president of Engineering and Technical Services. He began his new position on September 6.



"Mike possesses a unique blend of great technical and leadership skills along with on-the-ground experience in several Engineering and Technical Services arenas that make him an outstanding selection for this role," said **Richard Shaheen**, senior vice president for Transmission Services. "I look forward to Mike positioning this vital part of Transmission for even greater success and delivery of excellence to our customers in the months to come."

As leader of BPA's Engineering and Technical Services organization, Miller will have responsibility for implementing Transmission Services' \$500 million capital program,

providing technical support for the transmission maintenance program, and providing real property services to BPA.

Miller also will serve 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 system and incorporate new energy generation facilities.

Miller came to BPA as a student in 1992 in the substation outdoor design group, assisting in purchasing outdoor design equipment as well as drafting for capital projects. He graduated from Central Washington University with a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering technology, and became a permanent BPA employee in July 1994. **NWPPA**

## Douglas PUD congratulates Riggs

**D**ouglas County PUD Commissioners **Ron Skagen, Jim Davis, and Molly Simpson** awarded Line Foreman **Randy Riggs** with his 20-year service award during the September 14 commission meeting held at the District's East Wenatchee office.



*(L-R) Douglas County PUD Commissioner Ron Skagen, Line Foreman Randy Riggs, and Commissioner Molly Simpson.*

Commissioner Skagen thanked Riggs on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service. Riggs thanked the commission and said, "This is a good place to work. I work with a good group of people. Twenty years have gone by in the blink of an eye." **NWPPA**



## Balancing the New Energy Horizon

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



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



### SEPA expands its mission

In response to the needs of their members and to provide optimal value to the energy industry, the SEPA Board of Directors recently expanded its mission to include not only solar but all distributed energy resources. This significant decision comes at an exciting time in the history of the energy industry. SEPA will continue to work with its members to ensure a reliable, affordable, and clean future for power consumers.

It is amazing to see how far solar has come since SEPA was founded in 1992, due in part to successful collaboration between utilities and the solar industry. Spurred by its members, SEPA's research, education, and advisory services have gradually incorporated other technologies that are at the forefront of the evolution of the energy industry; this includes distributed energy resources (DER) such as storage, microgrids, demand response, and electric vehicles.

SEPA's focus and commitment around utility-scale and distributed solar will not be diminished. In fact, SEPA is adding new resources to expand its solar work and work on other DERs. This change at SEPA is a natural evolution that will help solar recognize its true potential.

Founded in 1992, the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) has over 20 years of experience working with electric utilities and the solar industry. For more information, visit [www.solarelectricpower.org](http://www.solarelectricpower.org). **NWPPA**

### T&B® splice plate reduces required structural supports

The T&B® Cable Tray Super-Duty Splice Plate™, new from Thomas & Betts (T&B), reduces costs by eliminating the need for additional supports at the expansion joint that the National Electrical Manufacturers

Association (NEMA) would otherwise recommend. It also can be used for mid-span splicing.

“The Super-Duty Splice Plate™ is designed for expansion splicing, which reduces the number of additional supports required for structural integrity,” said **Ralph Donati**, product marketing director at T&B. “By also doubling as a mid-span splice, it provides the contractor with greater flexibility in the use of materials and further reduces cost by reducing the number of stock-keeping units [SKUs] the contractor needs at the jobsite.”



The T&B® Cable Tray Super-Duty Splice Plate™ also eliminates the need to drill and install additional hardware on the flange, saving additional installation time. It also features nylon washers that facilitate movement by reducing friction and require no lubrication of the side rail during installation or maintenance. The reinforced design of the Super-Duty Splice Plate™ provides rigidity, resistance, and strength, and allows for true contraction and expansion under full loads.

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

**NWPPA**

### ABB's FT Flexitest™ switch celebrates 50 years

The first Flexitest™ switch was created in 1964 by Westinghouse. The switch continued to be sold following Westinghouse's merger with ABB in 1988, and ABB has used its global expertise to develop the FT switch into a superior medium-voltage product. Since then, ABB has become the market leader with the largest installed base in test switch technology.

The switches are designed and manufactured for quick and easy multi-circuit testing. Access to the relay or other device circuits for testing can be achieved without disconnecting any wiring. The visible make-before-break shorting feature allows test personnel to quickly and safely isolate equipment from current transformer circuits. Flexitest™ design features provide convenience, safety, security, and flexibility. Due to the robust design and reliability, ABB has never charged for repair or replacement in the past 50 years.

“We are proud to celebrate 50 years of safety and we stand by safety as our number one priority,” said **Richard Lindo**, vice president and general manager for ABB Distribution Automation, North America. “We continue to invent and innovate to assure that the FT Flexitest switch will remain the most reliable and cost-effective means for customers to wire the outputs of relays, meters, and other associated equipment to an external device for in-service testing, and will continue to be the industry standard for the future.”

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

## A. Dashen & Associates is now Northwest Municipal Advisors

Last month, A. Dashen & Associates announced that it has changed its name to Northwest Municipal Advisors and also has a new mailing address: 11900 NE 1st Street, Suite 300, Bellevue, WA 98005.

“We have changed the name of our firm to reflect the focus of our business,” said Principal **Alan Dashen**.

Northwest Municipal Advisors is an experienced, trusted advisory firm with a deep knowledge of rules and regulations related to the issuance of bonds. It is able to advise its clients beyond the technicalities of bond issues, such as helping them with long-term capital planning and developing creative financing options. Northwest Municipal Advisors uses its broad knowledge and years of experience to make your bond issue a resounding success.

Northwest Municipal Advisors is one of the region’s most respected providers of capital financing planning for municipal clients. Over the nearly 20-year history of the firm, it has served numerous cities, counties, school districts, public utility districts, ports, water and sewer districts, and other agencies and special purpose districts throughout the Northwest. For more information, visit [www.NWMunicipalAdvisors.com](http://www.NWMunicipalAdvisors.com). **NWPPA**

## Novinium® hires Mike LaClair

Novinium is pleased to announce the return of **Mike LaClair** to the position of Northeast regional sales manager; he will be responsible for direct sales of Novinium’s cable rehabilitation products and services to the utility and industrial markets in the Northeastern United States. An industry veteran, LaClair has over 20 years of experience in sales management roles, having worked for Eaton Corporation (formerly Cooper Bussman) in the power management solutions industry, ABB Power T&D, and COTO Technologies, as well as previously working for Novinium in sales. LaClair has a degree in electrical engineering from Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., and an M.B.A. from the Dowling College in New York.

“We are very pleased to welcome Mike LaClair back to our team as our company continues to grow and expand,” said Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing **Wade Pfeiffer**.

LaClair can be reached at [mike.laclair@novinium.com](mailto:mike.laclair@novinium.com) or (508) 699-7683.

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**



## New IN-LINE Tool unveiled by BURNDY®

BURNDY has introduced the Contractor Series 6-Ton Li-Ion battery platform IN-LINE® crimping tool; a first of its kind that combines performance with an economical price point. With its competitive purchase price, this tool is a cost-effective solution for the following: customers currently using mechanical MD6 style crimpers and are looking to upgrade; smaller to mid-size contractors and utilities without big budgets; and larger utilities as a dedicated crimping tool when big projects arise.

The Contractor Series tool maintains the quality and reliability that BURNDY is recognized for and offers better-than-industry-average crimp speeds. Fixed, scissor-action crimping jaws are available in three standard configurations, each accepting standard W and X style die sets.

Today, BURNDY is a global organization that has pioneered the manufacture of connectors, fittings, and tools for electrical utilities; commercial, industrial, and residential contractors; maintenance and repair companies; and the telecommunication and renewable energies market. For more information, visit [burndy.com/home](http://burndy.com/home). **NWPPA**

## McLaren Inc. adds SPI to its product line

The utility experts at McLaren Inc. are very pleased to announce that they now represent Solidification Products International, Inc. (SPI). SPI offers a full array of patented oil spill containment systems that can stand up to any challenge. Smart companies around the world are choosing SPI and its unique product line which has no competition anywhere. Imagine your oil containment areas completely free of standing water while simultaneously filtering out all oil sheen to non-detectable levels and providing 100-percent containment in the event of a major spill. You can accomplish all this without the use of costly oil/water separator systems, oil sensing contraptions, or manual valves that require your employees to be on standby at all times to drain all these areas of unwanted rainwater covered in oil sheen. SPI has all the solutions you will ever need.

McLaren Inc. is a manufacturers’ representative that has been serving the Pacific Northwest for almost 55 years with a main office in Kirkland, Wash., and branch offices in Spokane, Portland, and Salt Lake City. For more information, call (425) 827-9400 or email [vperic@mclareninc.com](mailto:vperic@mclareninc.com). **NWPPA**



*One of many examples of finished installation.*

by Lori Pickford



# To drone or not to drone?

*Public power has a vital interest in this debate, with many utilities — particularly those in the West — interested in how UAS can help ensure electric reliability by maintaining electric power delivery services and restoring electric power more quickly and safely after an outage.*

In December 2013, when Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos announced on *60-Minutes* that he intended to use drones to deliver packages in 30 minutes or less, most Americans thought he was crazy.

Later incidents of private citizens flying drones onto the White House lawn or, more recently, California aerial fire-fighting operations being aborted due to disruption by drones have increased public awareness of the growth in drone use, and raised concerns about their safety and privacy.

At the same time, a number of industries — including the utility industry — see significant benefits from the use of drones and are pressing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to issue rules to govern their use.

For these reasons and others, the debate over the increased use of recreational drones has rather suddenly become a hot-button issue for government, industry, and the general public.

The central question is whether, and under what rules, these Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), as they are officially known, can and should be used commercially and recreationally by business and the public.

Public power has a vital interest in this debate, with many utilities — particularly those in the West — interested in how UAS can help ensure electric reliability by maintaining electric power delivery services and restoring electric power more quickly and safely after an outage.

In February 2015, the FAA issued proposed — and rather restrictive — rules on the operation and certification for the uses of small UAS. In April, the American Public Power Association (APPA), National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and Edison Electric Institute (EEI) jointly submitted comments in response, highlighting the critical importance of electric reliability and the role UAS could — and should — play in ensuring the reliability, safety, security, and resilience of the electric grid.

Working on and around electric power equipment can be hazardous, costly, and time consuming. For crews climbing on equipment, and for those working in manned aircraft flying near the equipment, particularly during a crisis situation, it is particularly dangerous. Hazards present during even routine maintenance procedures are multiplied when equipment has been damaged, or the surrounding terrain has been made hazardous by storms, hurricanes, fires, or even a terrorist attack.

The trade associations noted recent research from Electric Power Research Institute that shows that UAS could reduce these hazards, while increasing reliability and reducing the duration and impact of outages. For example, UAS can do an

hours-long transmission line inspection over mountainous terrain that would take a ground-based crew weeks to accomplish. Moreover, the costs of purchasing and operating UAS are a fraction of the costs compared to purchasing and operating a helicopter to inspect lines or disaster-related damage.

According to Turlock Irrigation District (TID) General Manager Casey Hashimoto, “The cost to hire a helicopter company to assist in pinpointing problems with our power equipment is \$2,500 for four hours of use. This is in comparison to purchasing a UAS at \$1,800, which we have done, to do inspections and damage assessments, plus the internal cost associated with training and certifying utility personnel.”

TID submitted an application for a Certificate of Authorization (COA) with the FAA in May 2014; the utility is still waiting for a resolution and (hopefully) its approval.

APPA, NRECA, and EEI also noted that UAS equipped with high-resolution cameras can provide substantially better information than a crew performing visual inspections either from the ground or after climbing equipment. In the case of disaster recovery assessments, using UAS to conduct inspections of damage removes the threat to health and life to the crew or those flying manned aircraft around damaged equipment or in severe weather. Night time assessments and damaged equipment assessments can also be done much faster, and efficiently, which could help restore power sooner.

Trinity Public Utility District (TPUD) General Manager Paul Hauser agrees. “TPUD would greatly benefit from UAS operations in our service territory. TPUD has a service territory larger than the state of Delaware serving a rural population of approximately 12,000 people over rugged, mountainous terrain. It is not unusual for winter storms to cause power outages that take many hours to reach at considerable risk to field personnel,” he said. “A UAS would dramatically decrease the time it takes to locate problems while increasing safety for our crews.”

### FAA struggling to develop workable rules

Despite the clear electric reliability, security, and safety benefits to the industry, the FAA is struggling with developing rules that ensure safety and privacy, while allowing their use to enhance essential public services.

Initially, the FAA proposed rules to limit the use of UAS at night and beyond the operator’s visual line of sight; as a result, if lines or poles being inspected crest a hill or mountain, the entire operation must be halted. Acknowledging these concerns, the trade associations worked to offer constructive and workable limits to the use of UAS.

To enhance safety, they proposed rules to ensure that operations would be conducted in airspace where other manned aircraft are not allowed to fly. Plus, operations would be over easements, rights of way, or land owned by the utilities, where personnel are trained in workplace safety and where the general public would not have access.

Further, APPA, NRECA, and EEI told the FAA they would like to work with them on a waiver of small UAS visual line-of-sight rules for electric utilities during storm restoration or other emergencies.

### Public power utilities should qualify as public aircraft

Another wrinkle in the debate is whether small UAS systems flown by public power utilities qualify as public aircraft carrying out a “governmental function.” Public aircraft generally would face fewer FAA rules, and, once public UAS rules are crafted, small UAS flown as public aircraft might face fewer hurdles than civil aircraft. APPA submitted separate comments to the FAA arguing this point.

Mason County PUD No. 3 Public Information & Government Relations Manager Joel Myer nicely summed up the issue: “Even if our utility was not to delve into the use of drones, the very fact that we would not be recognized as a governmental entity is ludicrous. PUDs in Washington state are municipal corporations; have a publicly elected board of commissioners; and are recognized and addressed in the law as governmental entities.”

### TVA receives clarification on UAS use as a governmental function

In June 2015, the FAA sent a positive signal in response to a request for clarification from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as to whether operating a UAS for dam inspections would constitute a “governmental function.” The FAA said that even though the statute did not include dam safety as a listed governmental function, it did not consider the list to be exclusive. The agency added that it believed it had the authority to “validly expand the statutory description to include dam inspection by the TVA as a matter of public aircraft operation.”

As to whether TVA was using the UAS for commercial activity, or paying a private commercial entity for such work, the FAA said the public works function may be considered valid “when the projects belong to and are funded by a governmental entity, and the operations do not also constitute a commercial purpose.”

While the public debate over the use of drones continues, it will be important for regulators and other policy makers to understand the public benefits that utility use of UAS systems can provide to enhance the reliability, safety, security, and resilience of the electric grid and the utility workers who maintain electric facilities. **NWPPA**

*Lori J. Pickford is the executive vice president of Morgan Meguire, NWPPA’s Washington, D.C., consulting firm. She can be contacted at either (202) 661-6196 or lpickford@morganmeguire.com.*

## NWPPA, Energy Northwest, and Franklin PUD hosted leadership event with Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)

Early last month, NWPPA partnered with Energy Northwest and Franklin PUD to host Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) at Energy Northwest facilities in Richland, Wash. Rep. Newhouse, a first-term congressman from Sunnyside, Wash., took the seat vacated by Rep. Doc Hastings for the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Washington and who was the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. NWPPA took advantage of the August Congressional recess to schedule time with Rep. Newhouse and his staff to meet with NWPPA members and hear about issues important to us.

Close to 30 NWPPA member representatives attended the two-hour leadership event in the newly dedicated Kennedy room at Energy Northwest.

Representing NWPPA were Energy Northwest, Franklin PUD, Benton PUD, Benton REA, Chelan PUD, Douglas County PUD, Grant PUD, Okanogan Electric Cooperative, and Okanogan PUD. Topics discussed with Rep. Newhouse and his staff included support for all hydropower as a renewable resource under federal law and for reforming the hydro relicensing process; reforming the process for permitting rights of way on federal lands; support for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and cost-based rates; and support for nuclear power.

Rep. Newhouse is a strong supporter of hydropower and understands the need for resolving inconsistencies and delays in permitting routine operations and maintenance on rights of way. Member representatives from the Okanogan area reminded us all of the importance of fire prevention efforts on rights of way in light of the devastation caused by forest fires over the last two years and especially this year.

Newhouse voiced his support of cost-based rates in regard to BPA and appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from public power on these important issues. NWPPA will look for opportunities to hold similar events with Northwest congressional delegation members as a way to continue building strong relationships with policy makers on issues important to NWPPA. **NWPPA**



(L-R) NWPPA’s Anita Decker, Rep. Dan Newhouse, and Energy Northwest’s Mark Reddemann.

# Utilities battle another destructive wildfire season here in the Northwest



*Members of one of the Matanuska Electric Association line crews with the Sockeye Fire burning behind them. This fire crossed back and forth across the highway numerous times. Photo courtesy of Matanuska-Susitna Borough.*

**T**his year, wildfire season hit hard, hit fast, and hit early in the Northwest. Homer Electric Association (HEA) in Alaska experienced one of the earliest fires when the 8,819-acre Card Street Fire burst into flames on June 15 and two residential areas evacuated. In order to keep the fire crews safe, the Division of Forestry requested that HEA de-energize 408 meters that day; by June 20 all lines were re-energized when the voluntary evacuation orders were lifted. However, the damage had been done.

“The fire caused damage to electric facilities and left a number of charred and hazardous trees in its wake,” said HEA Director of Member Relations Joe Gallagher. “As

HEA crews made temporary repairs, a tree contractor worked to remove trees that were burned and in danger of falling into the power lines.”

Gallagher estimates HEA’s costs related to the fire are approximately \$400,000, which includes replacing 17,462 feet of wire and 21 poles.

“We are currently working with the state of Alaska, which issued a Disaster Declaration, to get reimbursed for those costs,” he said.”

Once the fires started, they did not stop for many NWPPA members and they indeed spread like proverbial wildfire across our memberships’ territory.

In Idaho, Clearwater Power lost 81 poles in five fires, while Kootenai Electric Cooperative assisted 520 firefighters in attacking the Cape Horn Fire (started on July 4) as it destroyed over 1,300 acres and six homes. The Kamiah Fire, which started on August 10 and was followed by high winds rapidly spreading the fire, knocked out power for 650 Idaho County Light & Power members all at once; Idaho County L&P lost 41 accounts due to destroyed homes.

August proved to be a very challenging month for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) in Eastern Oregon. Lightning strikes between August 10 and 15 started several wildfires, two of which (Cornet-Windy Ridge and Canyon Creek Complex) were in OTEC's service territory. These two fires alone consumed 214,329 acres, including 43 homes and 50 structures. On August 19, the Canyon Creek Complex was declared the number one wildfire in the nation, which gave it priority over the 104 other wildfires, in terms of national resources, burning at that time.

On August 27 at 8:15 p.m., over two weeks from the first lightning strikes, electrical power was fully restored.

"You could hear people hooting and hollering in the hills. People were shouting 'thank you' up into the night," said OTEC Director of Engineering and Operations Ned Ratterman. "The lights came back on through the efforts of dedicated journeymen working non-stop, 18-hour shifts and in full attack mode. Journeymen are hardwired to go in and do what it takes to bring the power back up. This is their community, too."

South of Oregon, the Butte Fire and Valley Fire wreaked havoc on California, coming dangerously close to the Northern California Power Agency's (NCPA) geothermal and hydroelectric facilities. The two fires, which began on September 9 and 12 respectively, together burned 146,935 acres, destroyed 2,433 residences, destroyed another 481 structures, and threatened at least 2,953 homes (Butte Fire information unavailable). Between the two, six civilians died and five firefighters were injured.

In a news release on September 14, NCPA said, "As these large, catastrophic wildfires threaten NCPA's operations, employee safety and welfare remain the agency's top priority ... Last night, all NCPA employees were evacuated from the geothermal power plant. NCPA has many employees with homes in the areas where mandatory evacuation orders have been issued."

Then there were the big Washington state fires, namely the Chelan Complex and the Okanogan Complex ones. These two fires devastated 88,985 acres and 133,450 acres respectively. Both started in August and as of October 6, neither fire is 100-percent contained, though both are close.

The Chelan Complex Fire affected Chelan County PUD in Wenatchee, Wash., which had already dealt with the Sleepy Hollow Fire in Wenatchee earlier in June. August 14 started like any other day, with uninterrupted service to the PUD's customers. Several lightning-caused fires, in at least two separate locations, began around 5 a.m. This was especially troublesome because the area was still dealing with an

earlier fire that began in late June outside of Stehekin on the north end of Lake Chelan. By 4 p.m., 5,000 customers were without power; a few hours later, 9,000 customers were without power and Internet access. Even as the fires burned together, the PUD was able to restore power to all but 2,000 customers within two days; by August 20, the number was down to just 350 customers. Equipment damage was significant: transformers at four substations and 12 transmission towers were damaged, and nearly 200 distribution poles had to be replaced.

At an August commission meeting, Customer Utilities Managing Director John Stoll acknowledged employees across the PUD who answered the call to help with restoration. In addition to line operations staff, he said employees from safety, water, hydro, fiber, finance, procurement, warehouse, customer service, and communications all pitched in to help.

"It's really cool to see how the District and all these team players rally," Stoll said.

Then there is Okanogan County PUD. First the PUD dealt with the 2014 Carlton Complex Fire; that fire, made up of four individual fires, started on July 14 and destroyed 256,108 acres, 237 homes plus 55 cabins, 341 miles of distribution line, 1,005 poles, 22 miles of transmission line, and 60 miles of fiber. After the fires, torrential rains hit the area in August, creating landslides that took out roads and more homes. Unfortunately, 2015 has not been any kinder to the PUD and the area. The Okanogan Complex Fire,

*Continued on page 26*



*Here is all that was left of a pole in the Tunk Valley after the Okanogan Complex Fire. Photo by Tim DeVries.*



*At the corner of Highway 97A and Apple Acres Road outside of Chelan, crews make repairs to infrastructure during August's Chelan Complex Fire. Photo by Tim Pettit, Chelan PUD Line Operations manager.*

which started on August 15, has burned more than 133,450 acres, and destroyed 123 homes plus 72 other buildings, 289 miles of distribution line, 15 feeders, 1,034 poles to date, 4.7 miles of transmission line, and 10 miles of fiber. After the Okanogan Complex Fire began, the North Star Fire started and burned an additional 218,138 acres.

"The Okanogan Complex wasn't as large as last year's fire, but the damage to our system — especially our distribution system — was more extensive," said Operations Manager Mark Pritchard.

### **Mutual aid at its best**

Utilities help utilities — it's what they do and mutual aid has been a tenet of public power for as long as anyone can remember. As long as utilities face floods, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and Mother Nature, mutual aid agreements will be necessary. Essentially, mutual aid is an agreement between utilities that, when possible, they will provide crews to assist each other in times of need.

According to the American Public Power Association, "This commitment was never more evident than in October 2012, when Superstorm Sandy caused widespread damage — affecting states all along the eastern seaboard as well as several inland. The response of public power utilities was immediate and far-reaching. After Sandy made landfall, more than 1,000 electric crews, with 3-4 individuals on each crew, came from as far away as California to help rebuild the electric system in the mid-Atlantic area. Individuals from more than 20 states spent weeks working long hours to ensure that devastated communities could begin to rebuild quickly and safely."

Idaho County Light & Power made the decision to bring in extra crews when "the scope of the damage [was]

apparent and the potential of continued expansion of the fires" was also apparent, said General Manager Jake Eimers. The Wilson Construction Co. from Canby, Ore., already had crews working at Kootenai Electric Cooperative and Grant County PUD, so they were able to respond quickly to Idaho County L&P's request.

"With the assistance of Wilson Construction, our crews plus theirs worked 16-18 hours per day for eight days straight to restore power lines burned by the fires and to protect those still in danger. During the course of that week, 105 poles were destroyed and the crews replaced 72," said Eimers.

Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative in Washington credits mutual aid crews for helping them get the power back on for their customers so quickly after a wildfire damaged poles in their service territory.

"We brought in two mutual aid crews — one from Ferry County PUD and one from Columbia REA. All in all the crews replaced approximately 80 poles in seven days!" said Nespelem General Manager Dan Simpson. "We would not have restored service so quickly without the help of the mutual aid crews. We really appreciate their help in our time of need."

"Columbia REA is happy to be able to live the core cooperative principles and provide mutual aid when needed," said Columbia REA Manager of Marketing and Member Services Scott Peters. "We've experienced major fires before, so we understand the difficulty in rebuilding miles of lost line, and how important it is to the members to get the lights back on."

Last year, crews from four other PUDs (Chelan County, Douglas County, Grant County, and Ferry County) plus a BPA crew came to assist Okanogan PUD with the massive Carlton Complex Fire; so far this year, two crews from Douglas County have already returned to help with the Okanogan Complex Fire along with a crew from Pend Oreille PUD.

"They worked side by side with our crews," said Okanogan PUD Administrative Assistant Shelly Timm. "The mutual aid crews were here a total of 11 days, working 17-hour shifts in very challenging terrain where the ground was covered with deep, baby-powder-fine ash."

In turn, Chelan PUD credits mutual aid crews from Okanogan, Douglas, and Grant County public utilities as being crucial during their response efforts.

Most recently, the City of Roseville Utilities sent an 11-man crew to Middletown, Calif., to help restore electric service to the community recently devastated by wildfires. The linemen and equipment left on September 22 and returned on September 27. While there, they installed 50 poles and overhead power lines to help people get back into their homes and businesses.

Roseville announced on Facebook that the crew was home, and "made it back safe — maybe a little worse for the wear." They also used their post as an opportunity to thank the community: "We appreciate the support of our customers and the kindness shown by the families in



Part of the 11-man City of Roseville Utilities crew that helped restore electric service to Middletown, Calif., last month.

Middletown. We wish the Middletown community all the best as they start rebuilding.”

### Lessons learned

No one can control Mother Nature, but we can all be more prepared for when she delivers a devastating punch. The common message from everyone that has dealt with fires this year is to communicate. Whether it be communicating via social media as Roseville did above, or using old-school methods such as news releases and interviews with media, utilities must communicate, both internally and externally.

“Tell it all, tell the truth, and tell it fast,” said Pritchard. Okanogan had two people handling all fire-related communications, both being required to be at the morning update meetings. One communicator was responsible for providing and receiving updates to and from law enforcement, town hall meetings, local media (newspaper, TV, and radio), and fire camps; the other handled the social media updates, but also worked with the public when necessary. The PUD also provided public service announcements frequently, as well as updated outage maps.

Chelan also utilized social media and the Web as a way to communicate

not only with their customers, but also with the media and visitors to the area. They shared updates and photos frequently on their social media channels, issued news releases twice daily throughout the incident, and made sure to be taking part in conversations.

“People need information during a crisis,” said Chelan PUD Deputy Public Information Officer Christy Shearer. “We were very conscious to share information with everyone, not just push PUD messages.”

If their social media numbers are any indicator, Chelan PUD’s customers appreciated their efforts. During one week in August in the midst of the fires, their Facebook likes increased nearly 30 percent, their reach increased by 4,047 percent, and their engagements increased by 4,261 percent!

But what can your utility do to be proactive and help diminish the devastation of wildfires in the thickly forested Pacific Northwest?

Matanuska Electric Association in Alaska faced the Sockeye Fire in June, but they faced it head on and felt prepared to do so because of recent tree clearings.

“While over 70 power poles associated with two distribution circuits were within the fire perimeter, only six poles and associated wire required replacement,” said MEA Director of Public Relations Julie Estey. “MEA credits recent tree clearing activities in the area over the past year for the relatively low loss of primary electrical infrastructure in this fire.”

For NCPA, the Valley Fire demonstrated the need for new policies that make forests more fire resilient. “We are

*Continued on page 28*

800.557.0098 | [www.golight.com](http://www.golight.com)



GOLIGHT

Revolutionary Lighting Solutions



Durable... Versatile... Powerful... GUARANTEED







An aircraft flies low over the Scotch Creek area near Conconully, dropping fire retardant on the dry grass and sagebrush. Photo by Roger Harnack of The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle.

having more of these large, devastating wildfires every year,” said NCPA General Manager Randy Howard. “In addition to the effect these fires have on people’s lives and important infrastructure, they are also releasing massive amounts of greenhouse gases, which are frustrating our efforts to reduce emissions in the state. There is an urgent need to look at policy reforms in this area.”

During NCPA’s annual meeting earlier this month, a session was dedicated to discussing potential disasters related to climate change, such as the fire.

“The preparation and response to impacts such as those experienced by the Valley Fire require closer cooperation and mutual aid between the relevant entities,” said Howard.

Having dealt with three catastrophic events back to

back, Okanogan has also learned a lot about what works and what doesn’t.

Pritchard has a six-point checklist for preparing for fire season because he knows the PUD will almost certainly be hit year after year to some extent. His advice for preparing for fire season includes 1) all operations and engineering crews are fire shelter and wildland fire trained (RT-130); 2) mutual aid agreements are already set up; 3) short-works roster is up to date with equipment and contractors; 4) transmission poles are treated with fire protection coating; 5) trucks are prepared and equipped for fire fighting and saving poles; and 6) at the beginning of every year, staff meets with the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, Emergency Management, Weather Service, EMS, and local fire departments.

“The linemen and ops people are the focus, but it takes the whole organization to make it work,” he said. “The support team is critical to the success!”

Other advice he has for utilities includes knowing how to work with FEMA, keeping all personnel (including mutual aid work) on the same shifts, providing hearty catered lunches at the same time at the same place three times a day, being prepared for mutual aid crews by reserving hotel rooms as early as possible, and remembering the effects on the employees’ families.

“These crews are away from their families weeks at a time and that is hard on both them and the people they have left at home,” said Pritchard. “Have a plan in place for spouses and loved ones to get information and to also send information to the crews. It really makes a huge difference — and it’s a relief — for everyone involved.” **NWPPA**

*Brenda Dunn is the associate editor at NWPPA. She can be contacted at [brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org).*

# Sustainable

## labor and employment law solutions

Fresh insight, locally sourced  
advice, custom-crafted for you.

bullard  
law® [bullardlaw.com](http://bullardlaw.com)

call 503.248.1134



# 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.**  
17201 N.E. Sacramento St.  
Portland, OR 97230  
Call (503) 419-3300\*

**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 355  
Castle Rock, WA 98611  
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

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

**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.**

# 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: Chief Executive Officer**

COMPANY: Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU) (Portland, Ore.)  
SALARY: TBD.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 16, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Application form can be found at <http://nru-nw.com/career.htm>.

**POSITION: Electric Field Coordinator**

COMPANY: City of Healdsburg (Healdsburg, Calif.)  
SALARY: \$6,052-\$7,357 monthly.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 16, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Applications available online at [www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us](http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us).

**POSITION: Director, Facilities & Security Operations**

COMPANY: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Sacramento, Calif.)  
SALARY: DOQ.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 19, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.smud.org/careers](http://www.smud.org/careers).

**POSITION: Manager, Occupational Health & Safety**

COMPANY: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Sacramento, Calif.)  
SALARY: DOQ.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 19, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.smud.org/careers](http://www.smud.org/careers).

**POSITION: Electric Planning Technician**

COMPANY: Monmouth Power & Light (Monmouth, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$3,778.83-\$5,862.23 monthly.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 19, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Submit required application package containing letter of interest, resumé, and application (found at [www.ci.monmouth.or.us](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us)). Mail completed packet to Monmouth Power & Light, 401 Hogan Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361 or email to [mpl@ci.monmouth.or.us](mailto:mpl@ci.monmouth.or.us).

**POSITION: Energy Services Coordinator**

COMPANY: Monmouth Power & Light (Monmouth, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$3,531.63-\$5,478.72 monthly.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 20, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Submit required application package containing letter of interest, resumé, and application (found at [www.ci.monmouth.or.us](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us)). Mail completed packet to Monmouth Power & Light, 401 Hogan Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361 or email to [mpl@ci.monmouth.or.us](mailto:mpl@ci.monmouth.or.us).

**POSITION: Deputy Administrator**

COMPANY: Bonneville Power Administration (Portland, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$121,956-\$183,300 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 20, 2015.  
TO APPLY: View qualification requirements, guidelines, and how to apply at [www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/416619400](http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/416619400).

**POSITION: Meterman/Account Specialist**

COMPANY: Sun River Electric Cooperative (Fairfield, Mont.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 23, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Submit written application (found at [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop)) to Brad Bauman, Manager of Member Services, P.O. Box 309, Fairfield, MT 59436.

**POSITION: Station Wire Technician**

COMPANY: Eugene Water and Electric Board (Eugene, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$45.28 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 24, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/eweb/default.cfm>.

**POSITION: Operations Division Manager**

COMPANY: Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$66,794.06-\$117,956.34 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 26, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.muni.org/jol](http://www.muni.org/jol).

**POSITION: Generation Division Manager**

COMPANY: Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$66,794-\$117,956 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 30, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.muni.org/jol](http://www.muni.org/jol).

**POSITION: Chief Power Dispatcher**

COMPANY: Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$75,004-\$95,576 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 30, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.muni.org/jol](http://www.muni.org/jol).

**POSITION: Line Design Engineering Supervisor**

COMPANY: Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$75,004-\$95,576 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 30, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.muni.org/jol](http://www.muni.org/jol).

**POSITION: Customer Engineering Supervisor**

COMPANY: Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (Anchorage, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$75,004-\$95,576 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 30, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.muni.org/jol](http://www.muni.org/jol).

**POSITION: Chief Financial Officer**

COMPANY: Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative (Grangeville, Idaho)  
SALARY: \$90,000-\$105,000 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 16, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply by submitting application or a resumé with cover letter, salary expectations, and minimum of three professional references to Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative, Attn. General Manager, P.O. Box 300, Grangeville, ID 83530 or email to [iclp@iclp.coop](mailto:iclp@iclp.coop). Complete job description and application form may be found at [www.iclp.coop](http://www.iclp.coop) under the "Jobs" tab.

**POSITION: Senior Electrical Engineer**

COMPANY: Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 25, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop).

**POSITION: General Manager**

COMPANY: Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Malta, Mont.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 30, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Send a resumé with three references and cover letter to Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn. Kari Hammond, P.O. Box 229, Malta, MT 59538 or email to [kari@bigflatelectric.com](mailto:kari@bigflatelectric.com).

**POSITION: Engineering Supervisor**

COMPANY: Lane Electric Cooperative (Eugene, Ore.)  
SALARY: DOQ.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 23, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Send application and resumé by mail to Human Resources, Lane Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 21410, Eugene, OR 97402, fax to (541) 484-7316, or email to [hrdept@laneelectric.com](mailto:hrdept@laneelectric.com).

**POSITION: Fleet Supervisor**

COMPANY: Midstate Electric Cooperative (La Pine, Ore.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Submit cover letter with resumé to Human Resources, Midstate Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739; fax (541) 536-1423; or email [ssreter@mse.coop](mailto:ssreter@mse.coop).

**POSITION: Analyst**

COMPANY: EES Consulting, Inc. (Kirkland, Wash.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Send resumé and writing sample to [careers@eesconsulting.com](mailto:careers@eesconsulting.com).

**POSITION:** Water & Wastewater Systems Superintendent  
**COMPANY:** PUD #1 of Clallam County (Port Angeles, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$8,201-\$11,630 monthly.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Application packets are available on our website (www.clallampud.net).

**POSITION:** System Engineer - Electric  
**COMPANY:** City and Borough of Sitka (Sitka, Alaska)  
**SALARY:** \$98,633.60 annually, or DOE.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Application and job description available at www.cityofsitka.com.

**POSITION:** Journeyman Meterman  
**COMPANY:** Peninsula Light Company (Gig Harbor, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$40.94 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Apply online at www.penlight.org/jobs.

**POSITION:** GIS Analyst  
**COMPANY:** Cowlitz PUD (Longview, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$4,797-\$7,195 per month.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Provide cover letter, resumé, completed supplemental questions, and completed Cowlitz PUD application. Submit application materials to Cowlitz PUD, Attn. HR, P.O. Box 3007, Longview, WA 98632, or scan and email to jobs@cowlitzpud.org.

**POSITION:** Financial Reporting Manager  
**COMPANY:** Turlock Irrigation District (Turlock, Calif.)

**SALARY:** \$8,652-\$11,044 monthly.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Submit cover letter, resumé, salary history, and six professional references by email to apply@ralphandersen.com. If you have questions, call (916) 630-4900. Details available at www.ralphandersen.com.

**POSITION:** Journeyman Lineman  
**COMPANY:** Parkland Light & Water Company (Tacoma, Wash.)  
**SALARY:** \$38.77 per hour.  
**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** Open until filled.  
**TO APPLY:** Application forms may be obtained at www.plw.coop. Submit completed application, resumé, and cover letter to Parkland Light & Water Company, Attn. Pat Morehart, P.O. Box 44426, Tacoma, WA 98448.

NWPPA

## Advertisers

Bullard Law .....	28
Cooperative Response Center, Inc. ....	15
Energy Northwest .....	19
Golight, Inc. ....	27
Northwest Line Constructors Chapter - NECA .....	29
Piper Jaffray .....	13
Ruralite Services.....	Back cover
Wagner-Smith Equipment.....	31
Willamette University.....	11

# Wagner Smith

## Get All The Lineman Tools & Equipment You Need ... Online!

wagnersmithequipment.com

- Everything you need for powerline and telecommunications line work
- Over 1000 high quality lineman tools and products
- Heavy-duty stringing blocks
- Most in stock and ready for fast delivery
- Backed by 85 years of industry experience

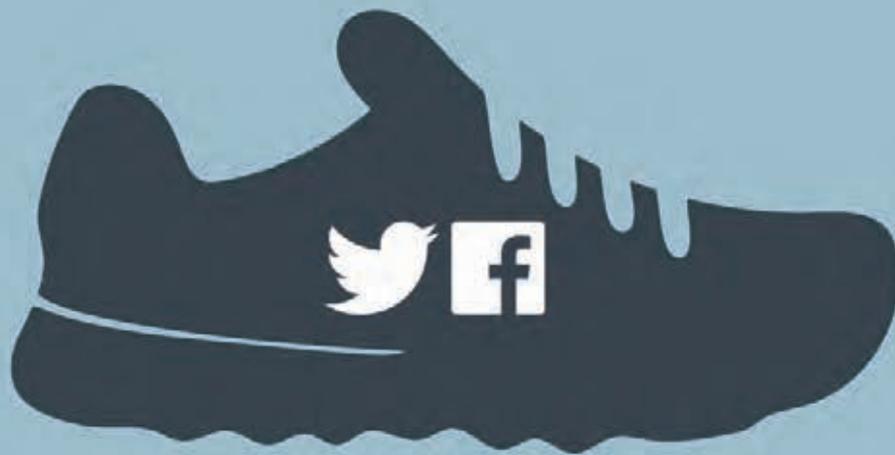


NOW BUY OR RENT POWERLINE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ONLINE!  
wagnersmithequipment.com

19020B S.W. Cipole Rd., • Tualatin, OR 97062  
800-444-7064 Fax : (503) 692-0474  
E-mail: sales@wagnersmithequipment.com

**Wagner  
Smith**  
*Equipment Company*

Burleson, TX    Dayton, OH    Tualatin, OR    Lawrenceville, IL    Sanford, FL    Phoenix, AZ    Ontario, CA



**Find your social media footing.**

**Our social media support program provides:**  
Energy-efficiency and safety content  
Quarterly planning calendar  
Best practices guide  
Custom graphics

**Ruralite**  
SERVICES, INC.

**Powering Efficient**

**Communications**



*Starting at*  
**\$200/month**  
*for magazine members*

Learn more at [RuraliteServices.org/Tools/Social](http://RuraliteServices.org/Tools/Social)