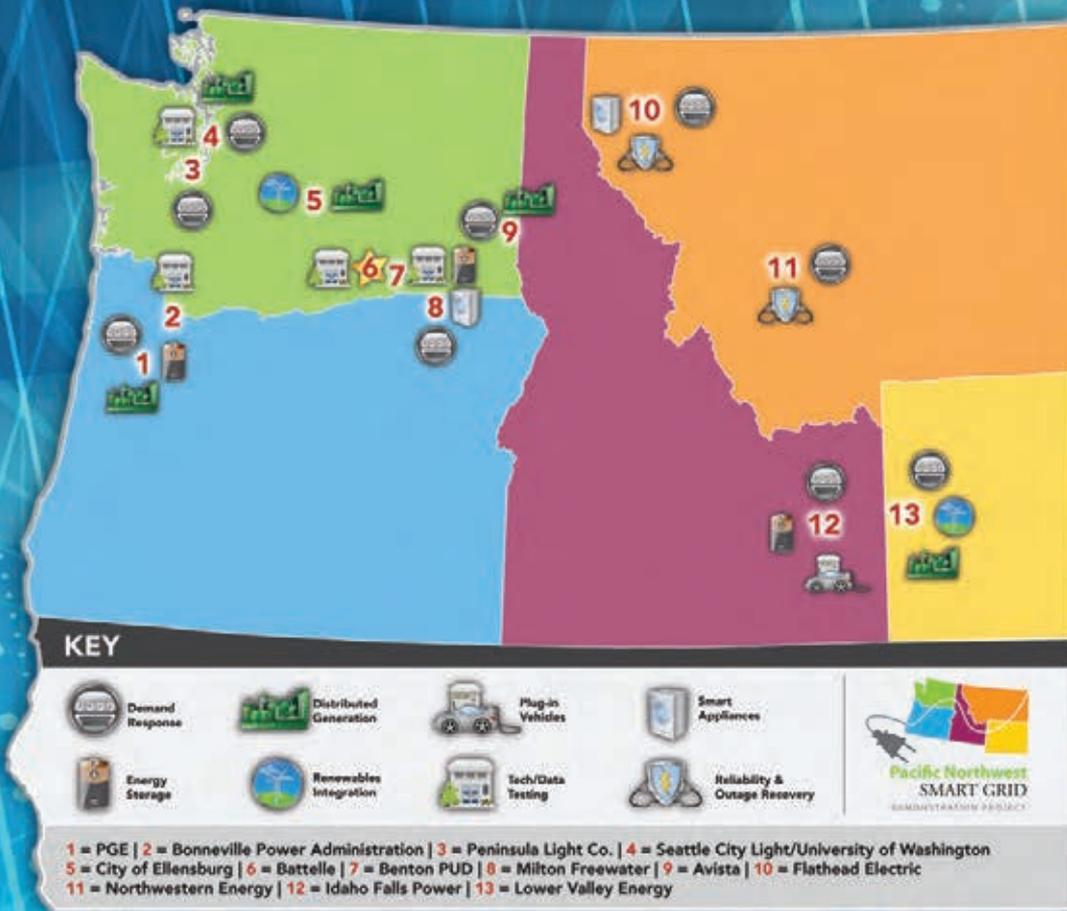


# Northwest Public Power Association BULLETIN

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS  
**NWPPA**  
Northwest Public Power Association  
September 2015  
Volume 69, Number 9

## Smart grid trailblazers identify future needs through the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project





10

Ruralite						
Presenting Calendar						
July through September, 2015						
September						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**7 Labor Day**  
Highlight your employees, thanking them for their dedication. Include statistics such as the total number of employees locally and nationally (70,000 for electric co-ops).

**13 Grandparents Day**  
Encourage Grandparents!  
Throughout the month, highlight Hispanic businesses and community leaders in your service and your funds any Hispanic-related programs through Operation Round Up or similar grant efforts, be sure to highlight the program's efforts.

**19 Talk Like a Pirate Day**  
Promote a program in which you speak or simply give a history "ARGH" to your members.

**26 National Good Neighbor Day**

12



26

**On the cover:** Eleven electric utilities across five states, six technology companies, two universities, and BPA recently wrapped up the five-year, \$178 million Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project. Turn to page 26 to learn what they learned!

SEPTEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 69 • NUMBER 9

- 3 NWPPA NEWS
- 7 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
- 10 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- 12 MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
- 14 OPED
- 15 POWER SUPPLY & RATES
- 18 MEMBER NEWS
- 22 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS
- 24 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- 26 COVER STORY
- 30 JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

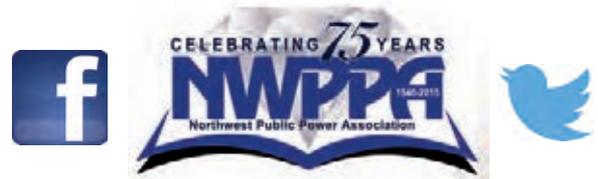
*Bulletin* (ISSN 1094-0049)

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

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

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

*Celebrating our past with an eye on the future*



[www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc](http://www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc)  
[www.twitter.com/NWPPAssoc](http://www.twitter.com/NWPPAssoc)



Scan with your smart phone to view our mobile website.

## NWPPA excited to announce Women in Public Power Workshop

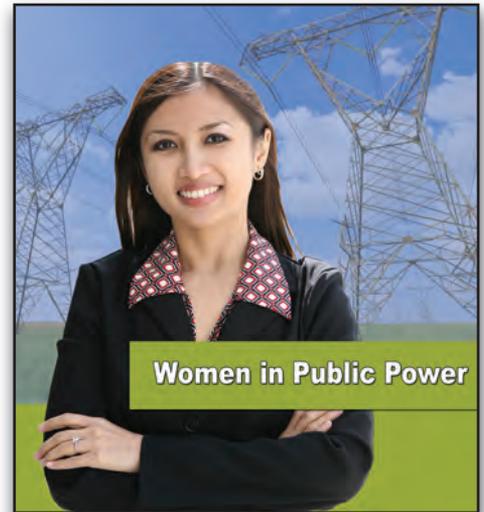
**G**eared toward women in the power industry, NWPPA's first-ever Women in Public Power Workshop will kick off next month in Portland on October 8. NWPPA designed this two-day workshop to bring women together to learn and connect across the Northwest public power industry.

Come to the workshop to develop a better understanding of individual strengths, tendencies under stress, motivations, and values. These will all be highlighted through a confidential Hogan Assessment that will be completed prior to the conference.

With the guidance of professional women such as Lockheed Martin's Myra Nawabi, Idaho Falls Power's Jackie Flowers, and NWPPA's Anita Decker, attendees will delve into topics that enhance individual success factors. Although there are many to discuss, the workshop's focus is on confidence, resilience, communication, and connection. Speakers will highlight their personal experiences and provide opportunities for thoughtful discussion, reflection, and action.

Come to the workshop and spend time with colleagues to make connections, start mentor relationships, and share stories that support development individually and collectively within the public power community. While there, create an action plan that connects individual professional growth with business and industry needs.

Registration for the workshop is now open at [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org). In order to fully participate in the course and discuss your Hogan Assessment at the event, registration closes on September 28; this will allow you time to complete the Hogan Assessment prior to the event. The workshop will be held at the Embassy Suites at the Portland Airport so it is convenient for out-of-town attendees. **NWPPA**



## Share your upcoming #PublicPowerWeek activities

**O**ctober 4-10, 2015, will mark the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Public Power Week, an annual country-wide program developed by the American Public Power Association (APPA). APPA represents not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities that power homes, businesses, and streets in nearly 2,000 towns and cities, serving 47 million Americans.

Again this year, use the hashtag #PublicPowerWeek on social media outlets. If you do so, APPA may share and retweet your activities on its social media pages for extra exposure. Also, you can tag @NWPPAssoc and we will retweet/share your posts on our pages, too.

For ideas and resources for celebrating Public Power Week, visit [www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org) to download the Public Power Week Toolkit that includes a variety of communication materials continuing the ongoing theme, *Public Power: An American Tradition that Works*. Last year, APPA

unveiled a public power mascot, Captain Public Power, to help share energy-efficiency and safety advice to customers. Images of him can be downloaded at [www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org) and used in your promotional pieces; you may also give him a shout out on social media with the hashtag #CaptainPublicPower.



If your utility does have plans to celebrate public power during October 4-10, let NWPPA know so we can highlight your activities in the November 2014 issue of the *Bulletin*. Send Public Power Week news releases and photos to Brenda Dunn at [brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org) before October 20, 2015. **NWPPA**

# NWPPA's 2016 resolutions process kicked off in Portland

**D**uring the recent Government Relations Committee (GRC) meeting on September 10, in Portland, Ore., the 2016 NWPPA resolutions process formally began. The GRC solicited new 2016 resolutions, sought comments on current resolutions for consideration by GRC members, and asked committee members to volunteer for the Resolutions Committee.

All utility members have until **January 21, 2016**, to submit comments on the new and revised resolutions; comments should be sent to Nicole Case at [Nicole@nwppa.org](mailto:Nicole@nwppa.org). The January deadline allows time for changes to be considered by the Resolutions Committee and for resolutions to be sent to all GRC members prior to the March Government Relations Committee meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Below is a timeline of Resolutions Committee milestones for your reference:

- **January 7** — All authorized representatives will be noticed of the opportunity to submit new resolutions or revisions/amendments to existing resolutions. This memo also serves as a preliminary notice and resolutions will be accepted until January 29.
- **January 21** — Newly proposed and revised/amended resolutions are due from the membership.
- **January 21** — All authorized representatives will be noticed with copies of all resolutions submitted for consideration by the GRC, asked for input prior to the GRC meeting, and invited to participate in a conference call of the Resolutions Committee to discuss the resolutions; verbiage changes; staff recommendations for resolutions to be archived or removed from archive; and other matters related to the resolutions under consideration.
- **February 4** — All comments on noticed resolutions are due, including archive status and recommended adoption process (en bloc or individually).
- **February 11** — The Resolutions Committee will convene by conference call or other electronic means to discuss and resolve all outstanding issues related to resolutions under consideration and review by the GRC.
- **February 18** — Presentation-ready resolutions prepared by the Resolutions Committee will be noticed to all authorized representatives with recommendations as to whether they should be considered en bloc or individually.
- **March 10, at the March GRC Meeting** — The presentation-ready resolutions will be presented to the GRC by a representative of the Resolutions Committee who will summarize the reasoning behind

the wording of each new or revised resolution. Authorized representatives may make one of four motions related to the presentation-ready resolutions:

- **Option A:** Move to accept a resolution or a set of resolutions as presented;
- **Option B:** Move to refer a resolution back to the GRC Resolutions Committee by requesting further refinement in specific areas;
- **Option C:** Move, by two-thirds majority vote of those present, to re-open a resolution for modifications at the GRC Meeting; or
- **Option D:** Take no action or vote to reject the resolution.

This is your opportunity to define where NWPPA stands on crucial policy issues. We encourage your input and participation to help direct the Association's legislative activities for 2016. Additionally, please contact Case if you are interested in serving on the Resolutions Committee.

NWPPA

## The Alaska E&O is just around the corner!



**M**ark your calendar for the 2015 NWPPA/APA Alaska Electric Utility Conference & Trade Show coming to Anchorage, Alaska, the week of October 26, 2015. The conference and trade show, held every other year, is packed with educational classes, sessions, vendor displays, and networking opportunities for utility personnel in engineering, operations, generation, safety, environmental, information technology, materials, and fleet services. For information and a copy of the conference brochure, go to [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org).

NWPPA

# First year in social media a success for NWPPA

Last year on August 6, NWPPA broke into the social media world via Facebook and Twitter. One year later, we are pleased to announce that this endeavor has been quite successful! At the end of August 2015, we have 268 likes for our Facebook page and 202 followers on Twitter.

But what do those numbers mean? In comparison, other association Facebook pages have been around a lot longer and have fewer followers (ones since 2011 and 2012 have only 58 and 198 followers respectively). NWPPA would like to get closer to where our friends at Ruralite Services are in social media — they have had a page since 2009 and have 1,151 followers (approximately 200 new followers per year) — and we are on track to do so.

During our first year, we have reported on conferences, events, and happenings in the industry. On Facebook, we have posted over 100 photos of these events to our timeline. On Twitter, we have celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with #TBT (Throwback Thursdays). We have been retweeted and favorited by the Senate. We have reached 1,149 people with one post on Facebook (in comparison, we consider reaching 150 people with one post to be a good result).

But we can still do better! Let us know what you would like to see on our social media pages by reaching out to us on Facebook and Twitter — you can find us under NWPPAssoc — or drop a note with your suggestions to Brenda Dunn at [Brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:Brenda@nwppa.org). And if you haven't yet, please follow us and like us! **NWPPA**



## Looking to boost your own social media skills?

Join social media guru Jennifer Petersen for her post-NIC workshop, *Social Media Bootcamp*, in Tahoe on September 16. Register for the half-day workshop now at [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org). **NWPPA**

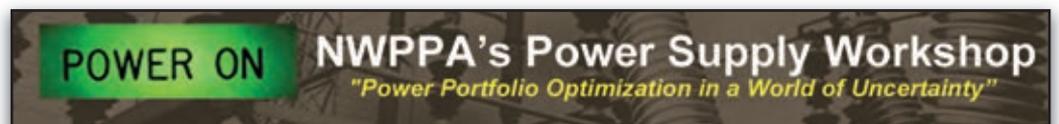
# Power Supply Workshop raised possibilities, challenges

During his opening keynote address at last month's Power Supply Workshop, Randy Howard, general manager of Northern California Power

Agency and former executive of Los Angeles Water and Power Department, predicted that "over the next 15 years, most utilities will replace over 50 percent of their power supply to become more sustainable and to comply with federal and state environmental mandates." This rate of change strikingly compares to the 100 or so years that it took to build the current power supply system and highlights the changes underway in our industry.

The Power Supply Workshop, a day-and-a-half event that ran from August 3 to 4 in Vancouver, Wash., covered the hottest topics of interest for power supply managers, analysts, and policy makers. Attendees learned that they have more choices, opportunities, and challenges today due to the evolving utility business model. Power planning for many utilities is being looked at not in terms of 25 to 30 years, but instead for the next 5 to 10 years. This difference is in large part because of changes underway in the industry due to the recently announced U.S. EPA Clean Power Plan, the reduction in the cost of solar energy over the past few years, advances in energy storage, and customers across the nation seeking more environmentally friendly power generation options.

After a three-year hiatus, the Power Supply Workshop returned, and was designed by NWPPA power supply members and associate member professionals. If you missed it this year, look for it again in August 2016. For other upcoming events and courses designed to support your utility's power supply function, visit [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org) to view the *2016 Training eCatalog*.



NWPPA

## A piece of NWPPA history: Leadership classes

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, NWPPA offered a three-part Management Internship Program, which later morphed into one of today's most popular offerings: the Certification in Front Line Leadership. This certification is made up of four mandatory classes and two optional ones, and classes often sell out. NWPPA graduated its first class of front line leaders in 2000. The Class of 2000 consisted of employees from Benton County PUD, Tillamook PUD, Valley Electric Association, Okanogan County PUD, Turlock Irrigation District, Lane Electric Cooperative, Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, Clark Public Utilities, and Klickitat County PUD.

In the spring of 2014, NWPPA graduated the first class of 14 utility employees to complete the inaugural five-part Pathways to Leadership Certification series. Pathways is a leadership development series for senior managers, managers, Front Line Leadership graduates, and newly appointed leaders. Because of the high level of praise for this series, it continues today and has already been scheduled for 2016.

Always modifying our events to keep them current, both series will be going through name changes next year. NWPPA's Education Advisory Committee clarified the names of the two series by simplifying them and focusing on the leadership aspect of both. Starting in 2016, Front Line Leadership will be known as Leadership Skills and Pathways to Leadership will be known as Senior Leadership Skills. Look for more information about both in upcoming publications. **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.

August's diamond was on page 14 in the branches on the right side of the tree trimmer photo.

Congratulations to August's winner: Russell Patton of Klickitat County PUD in Goldendale, Wash. **NWPPA**



## A look back at public power

### 50 years ago — 1965

1965 NWPPA Wage Survey showed a 4.6-percent increase in lineman wages; lineman cost per hour worked reached \$5.24 ... Douglas County PUD dedicated its new \$680,000 office building on September 25 (Wash.) ... Henry Stephens became manager of Skamania County PUD, replacing Smith Rea who resigned (Wash.) ... Ravalli Electric Cooperative received a \$187,000 REA loan to build 17 miles of distribution line and 5 miles of tie line, as well as convert 25 miles of existing line (Mont.) ... Tacoma City Light diverted the Cowlitz River into the Mossyrock Dam diversion tunnel and started excavation of the river bed (Wash.).

### 25 years ago — 1990

Benton County PUD, Franklin County PUD, and City of Richland Energy Services agreed to fund a nationally recognized energy education curriculum for K-5 students called the "Energy Source Education Program" (Wash.) ... Bill Kopacz was named the new general manager of Midstate Electric Cooperative (Ore.) ... The Snohomish County PUD Board of Commissioners approved a pilot program in which the utility would plant trees for each wooden pole it purchased (Wash.) ... PUD No. 1 of Pend Oreille County hired Larry Weis, who had worked for Snohomish County PUD for 10 years, as the new general manager (Wash.).

### 5 years ago — 2010

The Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors approved the participation in a research, development, and demonstration project to test thermal conductive cooling systems for dairy operations (Calif.) ... The Energy Northwest Executive Board named Mark Reddemann as the agency's CEO, replacing Vic Parrish who recently retired (Wash.) ... Clatskanie PUD won a federal \$3.7 million grant/loan to build out broadband access in the unserved areas of Columbia County, Ore. ... Mason County PUD No. 3 broke ground on its new Johns Prairie Operations Center (Wash.) ... After 44 years as a trustee at Tongue River Electric Cooperative, Charles Patton did not seek re-election; Jim Collins was elected to fill his seat (Mont.). **NWPPA**

# October, November, and December 2015

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

### IT SECTION MEETING

**Who Should Attend:** NWPPA utility and associate members who are involved in the information technology aspects of their organizations.  
**OCTOBER 6, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM OPERATIONS

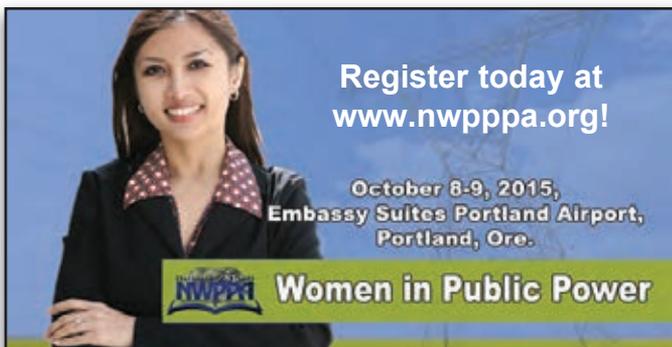
**Who Should Attend:** Any electric utility industry employee (utility or vendor) whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operations side of the utility business, including engineering; operations; safety; purchasing; information technology; regulatory and rates; customer service; public relations; legal; and accounting employees.  
**OCTOBER 7-8, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP SESSION #4: HR BASICS; BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE

**Who Should Attend:** Front line supervisors and managers, and those front line employees who will be transitioning to a supervisor or manager role in the near future.  
**OCTOBER 7-8, 2015 — WHITEFISH, MONT.**

### SUBSTATION SERIES: SUBSTATION OVERVIEW & INSPECTIONS

**Who Should Attend:** Line and substation personnel, distribution engineers, and supervisors who have responsibility for transmission and distribution substations.  
**OCTOBER 7-8, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**



### NEW! WOMEN IN PUBLIC POWER

**Who Should Attend:** Women in the power industry. For more information, see page 3.  
**OCTOBER 8-9, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

### ONLINE: DISTRIBUTION ENGINEERING SERIES: SESSION 3 — OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION WEBINAR

**Who Should Attend:** Engineers and senior technical personnel involved in the selection and location of lightning arrestors and proper system grounding.  
**OCTOBER 14, 2015 — ONLINE PRESENTATION**

### FRAUD IN UTILITIES

**Who Should Attend:** All utility accounting staff, policymakers, managers, purchasing staff, engineering staff, and human resources staff.  
**OCTOBER 14, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### WAREHOUSE SERIES SESSION #2: UTILITY WAREHOUSE INVENTORY, RETURNS, AND AUTOMATION

**Who Should Attend:** Warehouse and materials management professionals.  
**OCTOBER 14-15, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### REVENUE METERING: INTRODUCTION AND BASIC APPLICATION

**Who Should Attend:** Metering, service, engineering, and operations personnel; service and meter sales representatives; purchasers of meter products; supervisors; and other individuals who require an understanding of revenue meters.  
**OCTOBER 14-15, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### 2600 & 2620: NRECA CREDENTIALLED COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR TRAINING

**Who Should Attend:** Policy makers.  
**OCTOBER 14-15, 2015 — WALLA WALLA, WASH.**

### NWPPA LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ANNUAL MEETING (FORMERLY THE NORTHWEST WAGE AND HOUR ANNUAL MEETING)

**Who Should Attend:** Members of the NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations Group (formerly known as the Northwest Wage and Hour Group), which includes general managers, operations managers, labor relations professionals, and human resources professionals. Non-members may attend if they are part of a utility, are members of NWPPA, and it is the first time they have attended this group's annual meeting.  
**OCTOBER 14-16, 2015 — PORTLAND, ORE.**

### QUALIFIED WORKER TRAINING

**Who Should Attend:** Individuals who do not hold an electrical journeyman certificate, but as a part of their duties must enter or open secured areas such as substations, padmounted transformers, switchgear, vaults, and metering cabinets. Engineers, technicians, meter readers, and other operations personnel are required by OSHA 1910.269 to have this training.  
**OCTOBER 15, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**

### ADVANCED UTILITY ACCOUNTING

**Who Should Attend:** Senior-level accounting staff, chief financial officers, and finance directors.  
**OCTOBER 15-16, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP #3 SERIES 3 — INSIDEOUT COACHING

**Who Should Attend:** Directors, managers, graduates of Front Line Leadership, and newly appointed senior leaders.  
**OCTOBER 21-22, 2015 — SPOKANE, WASH.**

### ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE: GROUNDING AND POWER QUALITY

**Who Should Attend:** Engineers, engineering technicians, and engineering supervisors and managers. *(Save \$100 by registering for both engineering seminars, this one and Power Factor and Harmonic Analysis.)*  
**OCTOBER 26, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

### ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE: LINEMAN SKILLS TRAINING

**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.  
**OCTOBER 26-27, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

*Continued on page 8*

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

## ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE CLASS: 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.

**OCTOBER 26-27, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**



## NWPPA/APA ALASKA ELECTRIC UTILITY CONFERENCE

**Who Should Attend:** Utility engineering and operations personnel in distribution, transmission, power supply, substations, as well as those in safety and environmental, information/operations technology, materials and fleet, or any area where a more in-depth knowledge of these areas would be beneficial. For more information, see page 4.

**OCTOBER 26-29, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

## ALASKA PRE-CONFERENCE POWER FACTOR AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS

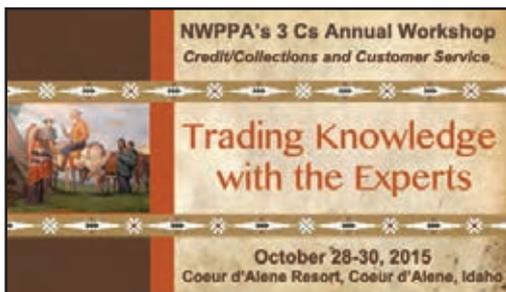
**Who Should Attend:** Engineers, engineering technicians, and engineering supervisors and managers. (Save \$100 by registering for both engineering seminars, this one and Grounding and Power Quality.)

**OCTOBER 27, 2015 — ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

## ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR UTILITIES — A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

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

**OCTOBER 28-29, 2015 — VANCOUVER, WASH.**



## 3 Cs 2015 WORKSHOP: CREDIT, COLLECTIONS, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

**Who Should Attend:** Customer service, credit, and collections employees.

**OCTOBER 28-30, 2015 — COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO**

## 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 TROUBLESHOOTING**

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

**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.**

#### **UTILITY HEDGING: MODELS AND ANALYTICS**

Who Should Attend: Utility managers and analysts interested in an introduction to quantitative analysis and risk analytics for the utility's wholesale power and fuels portfolio. Finance professionals, power marketing/trading personnel, risk management personnel, and auditors should also find this program useful.

**NOVEMBER 18-19, 2015 — SEATTLE, WASH.**

#### **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**

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

**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**

Who Should Attend: Foremen and crew leaders.

**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.

**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**

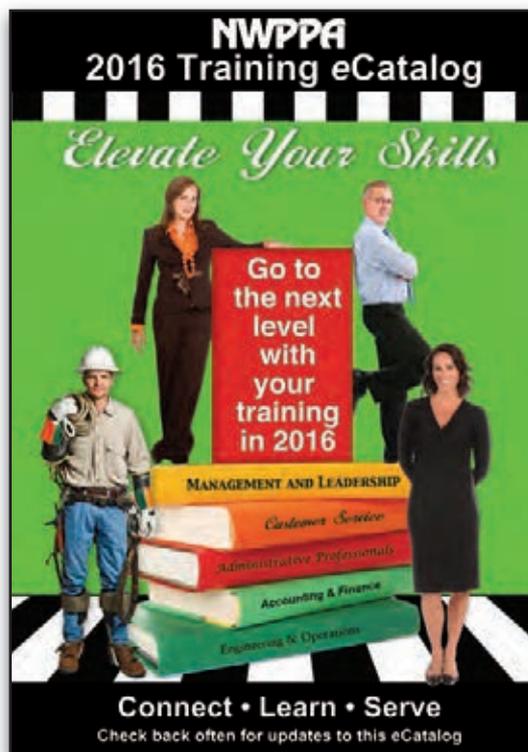
Who Should Attend: Administrative assistants, executive secretaries, or employees in administrative or service-oriented roles.

**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. NWPPA**



For more information on these and other courses, go to [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org) and click on the Training and Education link at the top of the page and then on the eCatalog link.

# Mobile device management: protecting your company's data

It seems like yesterday when one of our coworkers brought their mobile device to the office and asked, “How can I receive email on my new smart phone?” Once a convenience, mobile devices have become a very necessary part of our daily jobs. When we travel, we both find our backpacks now include a smartphone, tablet, and laptop — all playing a critical role in the work we need to complete.

But with these devices come risk. In addition to email, our devices now contain documents, apps, and data that potentially contain very private information about the company for which we work. What happens if you accidentally leave one of your devices on the plane or in a rental car; or worse yet, one of your devices is stolen? What kind of information is on these devices, and if they enter the wrong hands, what can be done with it? Enter the need for a mobile device management (MDM) solution and mobile device policy.

A mobile device management solution is a type of security software used to monitor, manage, and secure employees' mobile devices that are deployed across multiple mobile operating systems being used in the organization. An MDM solution will help you deploy a consistent policy across all devices to properly store email, documents, and other corporate data. Typically an MDM solution includes two pieces: a server or cloud-based component, and a client component. The server or cloud-based component includes a console to send out management commands to the mobile devices, and the client component needs to be installed on the mobile device to be managed.

Before we jump into an MDM solution, we must first outline a mobile device strategy. The first piece of the puzzle is a mobile device policy. There are several things to consider when crafting a mobile device policy. Should we allow

personal devices or will they all need to be company-issued devices? More than likely an employee isn't all too eager to carry a personal device and a company device. If personal devices are allowed, two major concerns of the employee will be his or her privacy, and what data is being collected and used. Think about a secure file sharing policy.

Will you allow your employees to download company files to their devices? You will not want employees using their mobile devices to download data that cannot be audited; in some cases, doing so may break compliance laws. A good policy needs to balance these privacy concerns while ensuring your company's data is safe on these devices.

Another thing to consider is whether or not your mobile device rollout will standardize on one mobile platform, whether it be Apple iOS, Android, or Windows mobile. “Bring your own device” does not mean you have to embrace every device — but be prepared! When selecting an MDM solution, it is very important to make sure it is robust enough to potentially cover all mobile platforms. As it stands today,

Apple tends to be a bit more secure right out of the box due to the restrictive nature of iOS. With the help of an MDM solution, you can bring Android and Windows mobile up to the same level as Apple.

One final item to consider is whether or not you will erase the entire mobile device or just the company data if the device is lost or stolen. Believe us, employees are not going to be too happy if you have to erase the entire device including their pictures, videos, music, and other personal data. You will need to decide if having a device wipe is part of your mobile device policy. A good mobile device strategy featuring an MDM solution can effectively handle this scenario, preserving the employees' personal information while removing your company's data from the mobile device.



*A mobile device management solution is a type of security software used to monitor, manage, and secure employees' mobile devices that are deployed across multiple mobile operating systems being used in the organization.*



We cannot recommend enough to get on the right path to securing your mobile devices by utilizing the two key components of which we've listed: an MDM solution and a mobile device policy. Implementing an MDM solution and mobile device policy seems easy enough; however, it requires thought and planning. If you wait too long, your employees will bring in many devices, from many different families, making it that much more difficult to secure. **NWPPA**

*Sean Wiese is the information security officer for National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). He can be reached at either (866) WWW-NISC, ext. 6804 or [sean.wiese@nisc.coop](mailto:sean.wiese@nisc.coop). Mike Weber is the professional services and support manager for NISC. He can be reached at either (866) WWW-NISC, ext. 6644 or [mike.weber@nisc.coop](mailto:mike.weber@nisc.coop).*



## 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)



by Megan McKoy-Noe

## Fuel social channels with planned content

**F**acebook? Check. Twitter? Check. Content? Oops. As electric utilities join social media platforms, the need for a solid content foundation becomes clear. It is no longer (nor was it ever, really) enough to claim a Facebook page. Consumers expect regular, relevant content.

Buffer, a social media management tool, advises businesses on how often to post (known as social media frequency). To stay in a consumer's Facebook news feed, post no more than twice a day, with an average of five posts a week. Utilities should tweet about three times a day during the work week (avoid Twitter on weekends). Add it up, and you need to generate a lot of content.

But wait — social media is not your only job responsibility? Never fear. You can — and should — plan content in advance to streamline your social operations.

### Look ahead

Scout for social opportunities with a planning calendar. Whether you want to celebrate national events or local milestones, jot down important dates in advance.

Set time aside four times a year to develop a quarterly social media calendar. Then create and schedule posts when you have time.

- Develop a standalone social media calendar or generate an alternate Microsoft Outlook calendar for social media content (great for teams).
- Add national holidays, as well as utility and community events. Looking for unusual days to celebrate? Try [www.holidayinsights.com](http://www.holidayinsights.com) or [www.daysoftheyear.com](http://www.daysoftheyear.com).
- Too often utility program promotions get lost in the mix. Add reminders on the calendar to spotlight a rebate offer, scholarships, and other utility programs.

### Double duty

You spend a lot of time writing articles for your magazine or newsletter. Why not repurpose your work? Ruralite Services is a small shop, so we use what we call a “cat content” policy: our content should have nine lives. Use the same approach to keep website and social media content fresh.

- Each month, post newsletter or magazine articles in the news section of your website.
- Share native links to the articles on social media. Spread it out, posting at least one story a week.

Pro tip: Make sure your website is optimized for social sharing. If you use WordPress, the Yoast SEO plugin lets you upload unique images and text for Facebook, Twitter summary cards, and Pinterest.



*Develop a standalone social media calendar like the one above to help streamline your social media operations.*

### Hash it out

Hashtags — a pound sign placed in front of a searchable phrase online — are overused; but when harnessed sparingly, hashtags help you plan content.

From #MotivationMonday to #ThrowbackThursday, established hashtags set a framework for weekly content. Using tools such as [www.Ritetag.com](http://www.Ritetag.com), analyze the strength of a hashtag before adding it into your content rotation.

#BeSafe is a good option for electrical safety tips; #EnergyTips is widely used for efficiency messages. Using hashtags, share the same type of content every week. Your followers will know what to expect, and the framework may help you generate future content ideas.

### Create bulk content

Once a month, take out your planning calendar; look at the kind of content you need to share; take stock of any cat content available to fill in gaps; and then write or design the rest of the content you need for the month.

Creating bulk content in one sitting saves time. Instead of looking for a new efficiency or safety tip every week, create tips for the entire month while all of your source materials are in front of you.

While creating content, remember the type of posts that engage followers online. Images and videos add power to posts, especially when they feature local faces and places.

- Canva.com helps non-designers create visually stunning posts. Upload your own photo and use the service for free, or pay \$1 for stock images.
- Many videos are available through industry partners. We have a list of free efficiency and electrical safety videos on our blog, [RuraliteServices.org/VideoList](http://RuraliteServices.org/VideoList).

### Book ahead

During an outage, there is no substitute for real-time posting and responses to questions. But what about the rest of the year? Social media management tools such as Hootsuite, Sprout Social, or the built-in scheduling options for Facebook and Twitter keep content fresh without overloading your work schedule.

Once a week (or once a month, if you've got the content ready), set time aside to schedule regular posts. Be mindful not to schedule posts too far in advance. You don't want an energy-efficiency message to post during an outage.

Pro tip: If you want to tag a business in a post (important for spreading the reach of your message), plan to schedule your post directly through Facebook instead of a third-party tool. **NWPPA**

*Megan McKoy-Noe develops social media content for utilities through Ruralite Services, a communications cooperative. Learn about Ruralite's social media support program at [RuraliteServices.org/Tools/Social](http://RuraliteServices.org/Tools/Social). For best practices, follow [RuraliteServices.org/blog](http://RuraliteServices.org/blog).*

### Learn more at #2015NIC

**W**ant to learn more? Don't miss Megan McKoy-Noe's presentation on social media content planning at the Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations Conference in Tahoe on Tuesday, September 15. #2015NIC **NWPPA**

# Wagner Smith

## Now Buy Or Rent Powerline Construction Equipment ONLINE!

[wagnersmithequipment.com](http://wagnersmithequipment.com)

- Full line of heavy-duty stringing equipment
- All equipment comes with operator training videos
- Heavy-duty construction with higher ratings and more safety features
- Backed by 85 years of industry experience



PLUS a Full Line of Stringing Blocks, Tools and Equipment. For pricing and specs, please visit our website at:

[wagnersmithequipment.com](http://wagnersmithequipment.com)

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

**Wagner  
Smith**  
Equipment Company

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

# Why you should build a relationship with your state's fusion center

It is a shame that we live in a world where we must be constantly vigilant as to potential physical attacks as well as cyber attacks against our critical infrastructure. As a member of the Electric Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC), I wanted to make the regional public power utilities aware of a service provided under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) known as fusion centers.

What is a fusion center? Here is a statement from the DHS website about fusion centers:

*State and major urban area fusion centers serve as focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the federal government and state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT), and private sector partners.*

Most utilities are considered “private sector partners.” In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) was selected by the Department of Energy to represent the electric utility sector by initially creating the ESCC. The ESCC was established as a conduit of information between the federal government and electric utilities to identify and minimize the impacts from threats to our critical infrastructure. In 2014, the ESCC transitioned from a part of NERC to an industry-governed organization. As a member of the ESCC, I was issued a security clearance which allows me to participate in classified briefings from federal agencies in Washington, D.C., and other locations. I keep my board updated on unclassified threats and security issues that could impact their operations.

Why am I telling you this? Because I believe it would be a good idea to introduce your utility to your state fusion center as a way for you to access unclassified threat information and to keep the fusion center informed about your concerns. The more electric infrastructure your utility owns, the more important it is to build a relationship with your fusion center. Don't be surprised if at first the fusion center considers your inquiry dubious; that is their job. But once they understand your intentions, they should welcome you reaching out to them.

This link will get you to the national fusion center association website and will guide you to your state's fusion center: <https://nfcausa.org/>.

I hope that most of you reading this are aware of the existence of your state's fusion center, but if not, you are now. Let me know if I can assist in any way. **NWPPA**

*State and major urban area fusion centers serve as focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the federal government and state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT), and private sector partners.*



John Prescott is the president/CEO of PNGC Power in Portland, Ore. He can be contacted at either [jprescott@pngcpower.com](mailto:jprescott@pngcpower.com) or (503) 288-1234.

by Julie Ryan

# Reading the tea leaves

## Emerging trends impacting electric utilities

**R**eading the tea leaves and trying to predict the future is a priority of many utilities. The electric industry that previously moved at a glacial pace now sees changes occurring at a rapid-fire rate. Where change historically was driven by slowly unfolding regulatory and legislative action, now market forces exert as much, if not more, change to utility operations. And the market won't stand still to allow utilities time to slow proceedings, file comments, and negotiate revisions. This puts utilities in an unusual position of trying to read the tea leaves and prepare for the future.

In recent weeks, there have been numerous new product announcements and new market initiatives. Google just unveiled its new Project Sunroof, a new tool that uses Google Earth's aerial mapping technology to calculate the solar potential of rooftops. Solar developers SunEdison, Vivint Solar, and NRG Home Solar have already partnered with Google. The tool is currently offered in Boston, Fresno, and the San Francisco Bay Area, with plans to roll it out more broadly in the future. Homeowners can use the tool to assess the solar potential of their home. This is another step toward increased adoption of customer-owned solar power.

A few weeks ago, Tesla's founder Elon Musk announced that the sale of its stationary batteries has been significant. Tesla has already sold all of the stationary batteries it can produce in 2016. Musk said the company could see up to \$45 million in stationary storage sales in the fourth quarter and up to 10 times that next year. And, from a regulatory and legislative front, the release of the final rule for the EPA's Clean Power Plan and the bipartisan Energy Bill put forth by Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) in the past month are recent examples of government initiatives that can greatly impact utilities.

So what are the emerging trends and what importance do they have on the utility industry? In strategic planning meetings with utility managers, three pressing topics come to the forefront in terms of priority and immediacy: 1) How will we comply with future legislative and regulatory requirements? 2) How will we keep the lights on and who will be here to do it? 3) What do our customers want and how can we respond?

First, compliance is one of those areas where if we stare long enough at the tea leaves, we can see what is needed. Compliance is often thought of as a burden, but the electric industry has turned it into a strength. It is rare to hear of electric utilities that are not compliant with laws and regulations. The industry is effective at lobbying and engaging in thoughtful discussions with government-elected and appointed officials. This helps the industry shape outcomes that meet the public policy objectives but are also implementable. The public sees positive end-results such as greater safety, a cleaner environment, and modernization of infrastructure.

Second, workforce planning can be predicted. No surprises here, as utilities are planning for large retirements of experienced workers in all areas of utility operations; and new tools

and technology necessitate training workers. While the tea leaves are easily read in terms of the changes in workforce demographics and where people need to be developed, the mitigation plan changes depending upon the organization. Some solutions include developing a pipeline of talent with local high schools, vocational schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges. Another is speeding up the training for less experienced workers and transferring knowledge more quickly. Training programs to develop skill sets for future technologies are also key. Workforce planning is an area where utilities need to understand market drivers. New employees have multiple employment options following the economic recovery since 2009. Utilities have to show that careers within their organization are a compelling opportunity for new hires.

The third area — reading future customer trends — is arguably more difficult. Utilities take comfort in surveys, like those conducted by JD Powers, that allow utilities to assess their customers' levels of satisfaction compared to other utilities. But this is a current perspective, not a future perspective; using industry comparisons might not be the most effective measure because most customers are served by just one utility. So perhaps a better point of comparison is how customers compare their utilities to their other service providers. While the utility might fare well in comparison to the cable company or the telephone company, how about in comparison to newer service providers such as Hulu, Amazon Fire, Plated, and Skype?

In terms of what customers really want, this is where market forces may have the strongest influence. The utility has traditionally had the direct nexus with the customer, in terms of physical connection, customer service, and rates. But now third parties are offering on-site generation, stationary batteries, smart thermostats, and other products. These innovations open up new possibilities for customers, and it means that the utility is no longer the de-facto supplier of energy. But there is no reason why the utility cannot be the lead supplier of energy services and facilitate use of new products.

While customers differ greatly, there are common interests relating to cost of power, continued reliability, more control over energy usage, and more options about how to procure energy. These are areas where utilities can consider future strategies to deliver customer value. Win-win strategies have emerged and will continue to evolve, such as community solar projects and partnering with industrial and large commercial customers with demand-side services. Community-owned electric utilities can nimbly work with policy makers and customers both to successfully implement those win-win solutions. **NWPPA**

*Julie Ryan is the managing partner at Aether Advisors LLC. She is also director of the Utility Management Certificate program at Willamette University in Salem, Ore., and an instructor for NWPPA. She can be contacted at either [jryan@aetheradvisors.com](mailto:jryan@aetheradvisors.com) or (206) 329-0424.*

- STORM HERO &  
DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

*Phyllis*

# HUBBELL POWER ON SYSTEMS POSSIBILITY

## DELIVERING MORE THAN A PROMISE.

During a storm, I'm kind of a big deal. In shipping & receiving, I'm responsible for what comes in, but more importantly, what goes out. My team provides essential supplies and materials to customers in some of the worst situations that affect their lives. No one on our team cares that I'm the only woman in a predominantly male department. We just care about getting the job done. Our motto is making the impossible, possible.

My name is Edith Hicks-Ogletree. I am the Hubbell Difference.  
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?



To see more about Edith and the rest of the Hubbell team visit [hpsdelivers.com/poweron](http://hpsdelivers.com/poweron).

### Throop retires from Clatskanie PUD

**O**n July 30, Clatskanie PUD (Ore.) hosted a retirement reception to celebrate the 25 years of dedicated service **Debbie Throop** had given the PUD. Co-workers, past and present, gathered with her family and friends to honor her years of service to Clatskanie PUD and the community.

Throop's first day at Clatskanie PUD was December 1, 1990; she was hired as the Accounting and Administrative supervisor by **Liston Darby**. Before moving to Clatskanie to work for Clatskanie PUD, she had worked for 11 years in the finance department at Central Lincoln PUD in Newport, Ore.

Two current Clatskanie PUD staff members were promoted to fill Throop's former duties, along with their previous position responsibilities: **Barbara (Barb) Haas** was promoted to serve as the new finance manager for the finance department; and **Sarah Rossi** was promoted to customer relations and services manager for the customer service/administration department. **NWPPA**



*Clatskanie PUD celebrated Debbie Throop at a reception on July 30.*

### Collar named as SnoPUD CEO/GM

**T**he Snohomish County PUD (Everett, Wash.) Board of Commissioners has named **Craig Collar** as its new chief executive officer/general manager. Collar, who assumed the position on September 1, has served as assistant general manager of Power, Rates and Transmission Management since fall 2012. He joined the utility in 2006. Collar replaces **Steve Klein**, who retired this spring.

"In naming Craig Collar to lead the PUD as general manager, we're affirming our continued commitment to conservation, financial prudence, renewable resources, customer service, and ongoing improvements to system reliability," PUD Board of Commissioners President **Kathleen Vaughn** said. "We're extremely pleased to have selected a candidate with such a broad background in the electric utility industry."

Collar has played an instrumental role in securing tens of millions of dollars in grants and forging numerous partnerships with universities and research organizations as the PUD has studied and developed new renewable energy resources in the Pacific Northwest. His areas of responsibilities have included power scheduling; short-term and long-term resource planning; resource development; power and transmission contracts (including negotiations with the Bonneville Power Administration); rates; energy risk man-

agement; load forecasting; and a range of federal energy compliance issues.

"I appreciate the confidence of the Board in selecting me to lead this dynamic organization," said Collar. "I've been a customer of Snohomish PUD for 18 years and have a keen appreciation of the importance of the work we do in serving our customers from the smallest to the largest. It is humbling to be given the opportunity to take on this position." **NWPPA**

### Chelan PUD hires new director of security

**O**n August 10, **Rich Hyatt** stepped into the role of Chelan PUD's (Wenatchee, Wash.) security director, coming to the District after 30 years as a corporate manager of security services. His most recent position since 2010 was with Tucson Electric in Arizona. Hyatt replaces **Bill Larson**, who is retiring after seven years with the District that followed a 28-year career with the Washington State Patrol.

Hyatt will manage day-to-day security; maintain internal security and compliance programs; and investigate and alert the District to changes in national, state, and local security levels and threats. He also will continue the utility's close relationship with local law enforcement.

"I'm happy to have such a high-caliber person as my replacement," said Larson. "I'm confident the District will be in good hands." **NWPPA**



### Naknek Board selects new GM

**O**n August 20, the Naknek Electric Association, Inc. (Alaska) Board of Directors announced its selection of **Dianne King** to serve as NEA's next general manager. The current general manager, **Donna Vukich**, previously announced her intent to retire effective March 15, 2016.

**Nanci Lyon**, president of the NEA Board of Directors, said, "The Board conducted a statewide and regional search for its next general manager. The board had several very competitive candidates to choose from. Ultimately, the board felt that Dianne's management experience and dedication to our region made her the best choice for the job."

King has lived and worked in the Naknek/King Salmon area since the age of 13. She spent 23 years working for PenAir, eventually rising to the position of King Salmon station manager for the past 13 years. She has served on the Bristol Bay Borough School District Board and owns King Guide Service with her husband, Jay. King will begin work at NEA on October 1, 2015, to help ensure a smooth transition to her assuming the general manager's job effective March 16, 2016. **NWPPA**

## Grant PUD approves Crescent Bar settlement

**D**uring a regular meeting on July 28, Grant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.) commissioners voted to approve a final settlement document that will end a legal dispute with Crescent Bar leaseholders. Defendants Grant PUD and plaintiffs Crescent Bar leaseholders reached a preliminary agreement to settle the lawsuit on April 14.

The Crescent Bar leaseholders filed the lawsuit in 2011 following Grant PUD's announcement that it would not allow private residences on the island after the utility's lease with the Port of Quincy was set to expire in 2012. During the course of the litigation, Judge **Justin L. Quackenbush** encouraged both parties to avoid a potentially lengthy and costly trial by seeking mediation to resolve the differences. Both parties began discussions to settle the lawsuit in 2014.

Under terms of the settlement, access to 80 percent of the Crescent Bar area previously under lease will be fully available to the public. The residents will be allowed to remain on the island through at least 2047 under a new lease agreement. They will be required to pay fair-market rent to Grant PUD retroactive to 2012 and will also pay their share of needed capital upgrades for wastewater treatment and fire-safety infrastructure.

During the July 28 meeting, Grant PUD commissioners also approved a recreation plan for the island that includes keeping the existing golf course, as well as developing 55 public RV campsites, an enhanced on-island boat launch, moorage, day-use picnic area, swim beach, walking trail, public parking, and concessions. **NWPPA**

## More member utilities investing in community solar

**T**he June *Bulletin* highlighted several NWPPA members who had already invested in community solar projects for their members. Since that issue was published, several more of our members have taken the plunge: the latest being Franklin PUD in Pasco, Wash.; Flathead Electric Cooperative in Kalispell, Mont.; and Mason County PUD No. 3 in Shelton, Wash.

In late July, the Franklin PUD commissioners voted to approve moving forward with public outreach and marketing for a proposed community solar project for Franklin PUD customers. The project will be a solar carport located



*Franklin PUD envisions their project to look very similar to this Walla Walla Community College structure.*

in the parking lot of Franklin PUD's administration building. It will be funded by interested participants, who can choose to purchase between 1 and 50 blocks, and will provide an alternative for customers who cannot install individually owned (rooftop) solar at their residence or business.

The cost estimate for the project to participants is approximately \$325,000. Project blocks will be sold to participants for \$200 each, and each block represents approximately 14 percent of a panel, or 40 watts. With the state production incentive of \$1.08 per kilowatt-hour through June 2020 and the energy generation credit, participants can expect a payback in three to four years.

The project design will have approximately 225 solar panels manufactured in Washington state and mounted in a solar carport structure. The total power generation capacity of the project will be 65 kilowatts, enough annual energy production to power about six average homes.

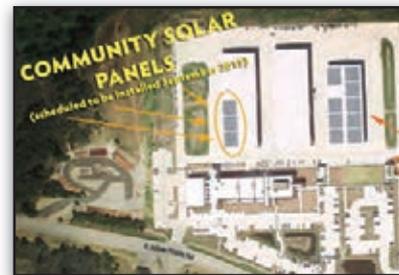
Flathead Electric's SUN (Solar Utility Network) program is Montana's first community solar project. Participants benefit through economies of scale, better siting, and the opportunity to take part at a much lower entry cost level. Instead of paying thousands of dollars for a personal solar electric system, FEC members can get financial benefits and support solar in their community for as little as a one-time payment of \$900.

FEC will build the solar array and then allow members to enroll in the project by purchasing a panel for \$900. Each month participating members will receive a credit, for the life of the project (which FEC expects to be through 2040), for the amount of electricity generated by their panel. At the end of the contract time period, the ownership of the panel reverts back to Flathead Electric Cooperative.

Each \$900 panel purchased equates to 285 watts of installed solar power that is projected to produce 359 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. On an ongoing basis, members will be able to see how the project is doing by going to FEC's website to view live solar production data.

Mason County's first local shared solar project is coming to Mason PUD 3's Johns Prairie operations center at Shelton, Wash. On August 1, PUD 3 customers began applying online for shares of a solar energy system.

The PUD's shared solar project will be 75 kilowatts, enough to power seven Mason County homes. It will be on one of the operations buildings at the PUD Johns Prairie operations center. With PUD 3's shared solar program, customers can purchase solar units in the system. Each unit costs \$100 (maximum 100 units per customer), with 2,893 available units.



*A satellite view of PUD 3's Johns Prairie Operations Center.*

*Continued on page 20*

The investment will pay itself off quickly (estimated between three and four years) in two ways: 1) an annual credit on a customer's electric bill based on the electricity generated by their share of the project; and 2) an annual Washington state production incentive of \$1.08/kWh that a customer's solar units generate through 2020.

So everyone gets an even chance, names will be chosen in a random drawing of registered applicants. Participants must be a Mason PUD 3 residential customer. The drawing will be on September 17, 2015. **NWPPA**

### BPA selects Thompson as new VP

**B**PA Administrator **Elliot Mainzer** has selected **Garry Thompson** as the Bonneville Power Administration's vice president of Northwest Requirements Marketing. Thompson is scheduled to begin his new position this fall.

"I am thrilled to have Garry join the Power Services leadership team, where he brings with him years of diverse managerial and leadership experience in power products and services, energy efficiency and strong customer service," said Senior Vice President of Power Services **Mark Gendron**. "I have known and worked with Garry for over 20 years and know that BPA and the region will be well served with him in this important role of service to our customers."

As vice president of Northwest Requirements Marketing, Thompson will be responsible for marketing power, primarily from 31 federal dams, to more than 140 Bonneville utility customers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana, and parts of Nevada, Wyoming, Utah and Northern California.

"I am excited to work in my new role as vice president of Northwest Requirements Marketing," Thompson said. "I look forward to leading a dedicated group of individuals working on diverse issues and helping them navigate the changing electricity industry." **NWPPA**

### SMUD awarded \$600K DOE grant

**T**he Department of Energy (DOE), through the work of Congresswoman **Doris O. Matsui**, has awarded the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Calif.) \$600,000 to install smart-grid technologies that will make the SMUD grid more adaptable to adversity.

The Grid Resilience Grant helps fund half of SMUD's \$1.2 million Resilient Grid Initiative that is designed to make SMUD's distribution system more adaptable to major disasters and reduce the effects of climate change through the installation and operation of high-voltage (69-kilovolt) switches and the implementation and operation of voltage optimization measures. These measures will increase the carrying capacity of the system during major natural disasters and other emergencies.

The grant extends and expands capabilities brought to SMUD from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Smart Grid program, through which SMUD

received more than \$127 million in DOE funds in the fall of 2009. That grant helped SMUD install more than 600,000 smart meters and develop and deliver its smart grid programs.

"We are very grateful and excited to win this grant," said SMUD CEO and General Manager **Arlen Orchard**. "The award helps SMUD increase energy reliability and makes the grid more efficient, while keeping our rates affordable."

SMUD's Resilient Grid Initiative emphasizes sectionalization — the isolation of affected parts of the grid in an emergency. SMUD will use advanced real-time remote monitoring switches and fault indicators that include voltage monitoring and control for distributed generation technologies like solar. The grant will also be used for advanced training of SMUD operations and line personnel. **NWPPA**

### KEC names HR administrator

**K**ootenai Electric Cooperative (Hayden, Idaho) has announced the addition of **John Myers** as human resources administrator. Myers most recently worked for the Washington Department of Social and Human Services as a labor relations specialist in Spokane.

In his new position, Myers will be responsible for benefits, the wellness program, new hires, and the facilitation of company orientations and policies.

Myers graduated from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in public administration and is working on an M.B.A. through Liberty University.



**NWPPA**

### Grays Harbor honors employees, retirees

**N**early 80 Grays Harbor PUD staff, retirees, and family members came together in June for the PUD's Service Awards & Retiree Luncheon at the Aberdeen (Wash.) Rotary Log Pavilion. The annual event recognizes the utility's past and present as service milestones are celebrated and retirees honored.



*Eleven of the over 20 employees honored for their years of service.*

"It is an excellent opportunity for our retirees and present employees to get together and catch up with each other," said General Manager **Dave Ward**. "The PUD has a long history

of employing outstanding people that take pride in their contributions and achievements, and it is great to have an opportunity to celebrate that.”



*At the June luncheon, 16 PUD retirees were honored.*

In all, 16 retirees were honored for their past service to the utility; 5 employees were recognized for reaching their 30-year employment anniversary; 6 employees for their 25-, 20-, or 15-year milestone; and 11 for reaching their 10-year mark.

The event also featured a short presentation on the history of the PUD, which is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, showing the strength in teamwork over the years and the progress the PUD has made for the Grays Harbor community.

“The number of employees celebrating decades of service to the PUD is a real indicator of the strength of our organization,” said PUD Commissioner Russ Skolrood. **NWPPA**

## MEA gives back \$25K to local programs

Thanks to the generous members who participate in its Operation Roundup<sup>®</sup> Program, Matanuska Electric Association’s (Palmer, Alaska) Charitable Foundation awarded four grants totaling \$25,000 to local non-profits during their second-quarter review on July 23. The latest grant recipients are Access Alaska (\$10,000 for assistance for individuals in need in the Mat-Su); Valley Residential Services (\$2,500 for digital document storage equipment to increase workforce efficiency and secure confidential records); Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. (\$10,000 to make the senior center more accessible by installing a double door and handicap push button); and Wasilla Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (\$2,500 to increase recreational opportunities and relieve congestion with field #2 installation and parking improvements at Bumpus Recreational Area).

Operation Roundup<sup>®</sup> is funded by members of Matanuska Electric Association. Since the program began in 2011, MEA members have provided a total of \$564,337.17 to local non-profits and individuals in need by providing just pennies a month by rounding up their electricity bill to the nearest dollar.

Applications are reviewed quarterly in January, April, July, and October by the volunteer board of directors of the MEA Charitable Foundation. **NWPPA**

## IFP proposes rate decrease

Idaho Falls Power is putting the finishing touches on its cost of service analysis to prepare an electric rate action for the City Council to adopt with the upcoming budget.

Under the proposed new rate structure, IFP’s average residential customer would see a 6-percent reduction on his or her electric bill, from \$72.50 to \$68.50.

IFP’s proposed rate structure was discussed at the August 10 City Council work session. Following that, IFP hosted three open houses on August 12, inviting customers to its office to learn how the utility sets rates and to hear more details about the proposed changes. **NWPPA**

## Nespelem Valley hires Simpson as new GM

Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Washington is pleased to announce the hiring of **Dan Simpson** as its new general manager. Simpson comes to Nespelem from Okanogan PUD and is an electrical engineer with his P.E. license. His first day was September 8. **NWPPA**

## PCWA receives Certificate of Excellence

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Board of Directors and staff were presented with a District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) at the PCWA Board of Directors meeting in Auburn, Calif., on August 6. The certificate was awarded as a result of transparency in the operations and governance of the Agency.



*(L-R): Dane Wadlé of California Special Districts Association presents the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence to PCWA Board Chairman Primo Santini.*

“We’re ever mindful of the fact that we’re a public agency tasked with the goal of serving and representing the best interests of the county and our customers,” PCWA General Manager **Einar Maisch** said. “Being transparent is essential to that goal. I would like to commend our staff on the steps taken to receive this certificate.”

Established in 2013, the District Transparency Certificate program was created by the SDLF in an effort to promote and recognize commitment by a special district to being open and accessible to the public it serves. To be considered for the certificate, agencies are required to meet a set of transparency standards pertaining to both the daily operations and the governance of the special district.

“The PCWA staff does a tremendous job managing day-to-day operations of the Agency and providing the best possible service to its customers,” said Director **Robert Dugan**. “I think I can speak for the board in saying that we’re proud to be directors of an agency that allows us to focus our efforts on our responsibilities as directors.” **NWPPA**

### EES Consulting welcomes KC Fagen

**W**ith 25 years of consulting and utility experience, **KC Fagen, P.E.**, has joined the EES Consulting team as a senior electrical engineer to enhance EES's design and consulting services. Fagen is an industry leader in distribution efficiency and voltage/var optimization (VVO). He was the project manager of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's Distribution Efficiency Initiative project, consulted for BPA in establishing the protocols for the Energy Smart Utility Efficiency program, and has taught VVO courses for EUCI. He recently worked for Austin Energy and spent a year as an on-site consultant for Hawaiian Electric Company's substation and telecommunication engineering group.



In addition to his 15 years of managing projects, Fagen has hands-on experience in substation and distribution automation; smart and micro grid design; substation design including relay, breaker, and transformer replacements; and SCADA RTU upgrades. He has performed system protection and relay coordination studies throughout his career and developed system planning studies including construction work plans and long-range planning for Pacific Northwest clients.

EES Consulting is a registered professional engineering corporation with offices in the metropolitan areas of Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Ore. For more information, visit [www.eesconsulting.com](http://www.eesconsulting.com). **NWPPA**

### Inner-Tite teams up with Carlson Sales

**I**nnertite Corp., a manufacturer of premium quality meter security hardware, has appointed Carlson Sales as their manufacturers' representative in the Pacific Northwest. Carlson Sales is the premier manufacturers' representative agency in the Northwest with offices in Salt Lake City, Spokane, and Seattle, and a central office in Vancouver, Wash. Carlson Sales will handle sales of Inner-Tite Electric Meter Locking Devices and Seals, both direct and through distribution, at all electric utility companies in the Northwest.

"We're excited about this relationship and what it offers in terms of service to our customers and growth for both our companies," said Inner-Tite General Sales Manager **Lee Holovnia**. "Carlson Sales is well-established and respected in the utility industry and we look forward to working with them."

Carlson Sales covers a footprint of all of the states of the Northwest: Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Alaska, and Northern California.

Inner-Tite Corp. is an independent, privately held U.S. corporation serving utility companies since 1932 with top-quality products for revenue protection and meter security. For more information, visit [www.inner-tite.com](http://www.inner-tite.com). **NWPPA**

### Osmose sells to Kohlberg & Company

**H**arris Williams & Co. announced the sale of Osmose Utility Services, Inc., a portfolio company of funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management, L.P., to Kohlberg & Company, LLC. Osmose is a leading provider of repair and maintenance services for electric utility infrastructure.

"Oaktree and management have done a tremendous job building Osmose into an industry leader," said **Drew Spitzer**, a managing director at Harris Williams & Co. "Kohlberg is a great home for the business given their extensive experience in the sector, which will be accretive to the company's continued success."

"Osmose provides critical inspection, treatment, and restoration services to the millions of wood distribution poles and steel transmission towers that make up the U.S. electrical grid. We are thrilled to have represented such a critical service provider in a successful sale transaction," said **Brian Lucas**, a managing director at Harris Williams & Co.

Osmose is the leading provider of structural integrity management services to transmission and distribution infrastructure throughout the U.S. For more information, visit [www.osmose.com](http://www.osmose.com). **NWPPA**

### BKI announces staffing changes

**B**rown & Kysar recently welcomed two new employees to its business and said good-bye to a familiar face.

**Stephan Williams** joins the Brown & Kysar team in the position of distribution design. Many know him from his days working as a technical sales representative in the Pacific Northwest. He has decided to gain additional technical experience, and is now working toward his professional engineering license providing design services to public utilities.

**Kamon "Kam" Afshari** is a recent graduate from Washington State University in the power engineering program. In his past life, he worked in the construction trades. Hoping to be a good example for his own teenage children, Afshari went back to school and graduated as an electrical engineer.



*Stephen Williams*



*Kamon "Kam" Afshari*

Merritt “Buz” Ketcham, P.E. spent many years serving the public power industry and was well known by many. He was a Cowlitz PUD commissioner, and was employed by Brown & Kysar, Inc. for approximately 4.5 years after his retirement from Longview Fiber. Ketcham recently departed Brown & Kysar to pursue other interests.

Brown & Kysar is a consulting firm focused on public power. For more information, visit [www.bki.cc](http://www.bki.cc). **NWPPA**

## Black & Veatch’s Oskvig announces retirement

**A**fter the announcement that Dean Oskvig, current president and CEO of the Black & Veatch Energy business, will retire after 40 years of service, the company appointed two senior leaders to guide its energy-focused operations. Oskvig will continue in his leadership role through the remainder of 2015 while guiding a transition period for Hoe Wai Cheong, president, Oil & Gas; and Ed Walsh, president, Power. Both will report to Steve Edwards, Black & Veatch chairman and CEO.

Oskvig became president and CEO of the company’s Energy business in 2006, and is responsible for determining strategies and business direction, developing talent, managing risk, and delivering annual and long-term profit. He joined the Black & Veatch Board of Directors in 2006 and serves on the Investment Review Board. He started with Black & Veatch in 1975, and prior to his current position was chief operating officer for the company’s Energy business.

Based in Singapore, Cheong is currently executive vice president and executive director, EPC Projects for Black & Veatch. He leads Black & Veatch’s EPC business for Energy throughout the world.

Walsh joined Black & Veatch in 2003 and is currently executive vice president and executive director of Global Services Projects within Black & Veatch’s Energy business. He is responsible for overseeing and implementing strategies, processes, and tools to further enhance the company’s service offerings, client satisfaction, and continued growth.

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



*Dean Oskvig*



*Hoe Wai Cheong*



*Ed Walsh*

## Novinium rebrands cable injection fluids

**N**ovinium®, the global leader in the cable-rejuvenation industry, announced that it is rebranding its two proprietary injection fluids, previously known as Perficio® 011 and Ultrinium® 732/733, giving these products the new names Cablecure® iXL and Cablecure 732/733, respectively.

Cablecure iXL is a revolutionary injection fluid that offers two life-extension components that repair water-tree damage and disrupt the inception of partial discharges while upgrading existing cable with materials found in today’s new cable, extending useful cable life up to 20 years.

Cablecure 732/733 provides the most advanced cable-rejuvenation fluid on the market by delivering multi-tiered life-extension materials that repair water-tree damage and numerous materials to upgrade the cable with elements found in today’s new cable. Cablecure 732 is used on cables up to 250 MCM, whereas Cablecure 733 is used on larger-diameter cables and where conductor temperatures may exceed 60°C. OSHA and DOT approved, Cablecure 732/733 contains no known carcinogens or reproductive toxins and offers a 40-year warranty.

“We acquired the Cablecure brand as part of our acquisition of UtilX. The brand is well known throughout the industry and the logical choice for our injection fluids,” said Novinium Sr. Vice President of Sales and Marketing Wade Pfeiffer. “The strength of the Cablecure brand continues to open new market opportunities as our company grows.”

To learn more about Novinium and its products and services, visit [www.novinium.com](http://www.novinium.com). **NWPPA**

## Georgia’s largest muni selects Tantalus

**T**antalus, provider of TUNet®, an award-winning smart grid enterprise communications and applications platform, announced on August 25 that it is partnering with Marietta Power and Water, Georgia’s largest municipal utility, for the implementation of a fully automated, two-way smart grid solution.

TUNet is increasing the return on investment of Marietta Power’s existing Itron, Inc. ERT® (encoder receiver transmitter) AMR technology by remotely collecting and processing electric, water, and gas readings in near-real time with a hybrid IP and wireless-based AMI network. Within months since deployment began, Marietta Power is now remotely collecting meter readings from more than 36,000 electric and water ERT devices through TUNet.

Tantalus ([www.tantalus.com](http://www.tantalus.com)) provides a two-way, multi-purpose platform that enables access to data to power advanced smart grid applications for monitoring and control of electric, water, and gas utilities. **NWPPA**

# Keeping a watchful eye on possible cyber–security and energy bills



*Both the House and Senate made significant progress on advancing a bipartisan energy bill before the August recess, but the task now becomes more difficult. The Senate bill will need to find time to be considered by the full Senate, and the House bill will come before the full Energy and Commerce Committee. The passage of either bill is in doubt given the differing energy priorities of congressional Republicans and Democrats.*

**F**all will be a busy time for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, as it tackles contentious issues like the Iran nuclear agreement, re-authorization of a federal highway bill, and funding the government for Fiscal Year 2016, which begins on October 1.

None of the 12 individual spending bills — including those that fund the Environmental Protection Agency, the Corps of Engineers, and the Department of the Interior — have been passed to date, likely because the White House has threatened vetoes of the bills because they include policy “riders” blocking Administration initiatives like the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule extending the reach of the federal government under the Clean Water Act. This stalemate likely means that Congress will again default to passing a Continuing Resolution to fund government activities at existing levels.

Also on the table will be a debate on increasing the federal debt ceiling, which Treasury Secretary Jack Lew says will be reached on or about October 30. For the last several years, the need to increase the federal government’s borrowing authority has been a flash point for conflict between congressional Republicans and Democrats, despite the fact that such action is needed to pay existing legal obligations of the federal government, not to fund new spending.

Partisan tensions over these spending issues may erode Congress’s ability to enact an energy bill, and/or a cyber-security information-sharing measure — bills in which NWPPA members have a direct interest.

### Cyber–security information sharing

Prior to the August recess, Senate leaders reached agreement on the number of amendments that may be offered when the bipartisan Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) comes to the full Senate for a vote this fall: a total of 21, including 10 from Republicans and 11 from Democrats. The bulk of the amendments are privacy related and will attempt to further limit the government’s ability to use information it obtains under CISA for other purposes.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D–Ore.) is a vocal opponent of the bill, which he says is not an information-sharing bill but instead a government surveillance measure. Wyden, and other senators who oppose the bill, remain deeply skeptical of the federal government and the U.S. intelligence community as a result of the Edward Snowden revelations about the scope and use of information gathered under the Patriot Act and other authorities. Their opposition is based largely on distrust of the federal government’s use of the information gathered, rather than information shared by non-federal entities.

NWPPA and the rest of the electric sector, as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, strongly support passage of CISA as a necessary step to enable owners and operators of critical infrastructure to better monitor and protect key facilities from cyber attacks.

Passage of CISA is a priority for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R–Ky.), but a lengthy, acrimonious debate and increasing partisan tensions make it difficult to predict passage at this point.

The House passed a similar information sharing bill in April.

### Outlook for energy bill

Both the House and Senate made significant progress on advancing a bipartisan energy bill before the August recess, but the task now becomes more difficult. The Senate bill will need to find time to be considered by the full Senate, and the House bill will come before the full Energy and Commerce Committee. The passage of either bill is in doubt given the differing energy priorities of congressional Republicans and Democrats.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski (R–Alaska) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D–Wash.) agreed to put aside issues on which they could not agree in order to craft a bill that would win bipartisan Committee support. The Energy Policy Modernization Act that emerged from that process contains

several provisions NWPPA members support, including:

- **Hydropower:** Provisions to streamline the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) hydropower licensing and relicensing process, including designating FERC as the lead agency to set binding schedules and coordinate all needed federal approvals; developing a mechanism to resolve federal inter-agency disputes to ensure timely participation; and ensuring that studies required as part of the process are made public and not duplicative. However, a provision requiring a “clear and direct” nexus between the mandatory conditions imposed by state and federal resource agencies was stricken. The hydropower section also contains a “Sense of Congress” declaration that hydropower is a renewable resource — an effort that the Northwest congressional delegation has led for the last few years. NWPPA coordinated a letter from multiple regional public power agencies in July, urging inclusion of these hydropower reforms.
- **Transmission siting:** Provisions to codify operations of an interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT) to improve the efficiency of permitting electric transmission facilities, including on federal lands. RRTT has been an effort of the Department of Energy (DOE) that has proven successful in the eastern interconnection; NWPPA hopes it can speed transmission siting in the West as well.
- **Electric reliability:** A “safety valve” provision designed to protect generators subject to a DOE order to run, to protect electric reliability, in the event its operations conflict with environmental regulations. The generators would not be liable for penalties in such instances. The Senate bill would also require agencies that issue major rules that may affect the reliability of the electric grid to respond to comments of regional reliability organizations and FERC with regard to those impacts. This is intended to give FERC a formal role in such final rules and is a response to the lack of formal FERC participation in the Clean Power Plan rules finalized by the EPA this year.
- **DOE emergency authority:** NWPPA and the electric sector cyber coalition support the inclusion of provisions giving the DOE, upon a written presidential declaration of an imminent threat to the cyber security of the bulk power system, to order utilities to take action.

Other provisions that NWPPA supported were not included in the committee-approved bill, such as a cost-shared grant program to enable small and medium-sized utilities to assess, design, and implement tools that assist

*Fall will indicate whether the House and Senate energy bills get legs in terms of strong bipartisan support, or whether the amendment process becomes a tool for advocates of more polarizing issues, like the Keystone pipeline, the Clean Power Plan, a federal role on distributed generation, or a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard, to derail the bills.*

in cyber monitoring and to participate in information-sharing programs with the government; and improved rights-of-way permitting on federal lands to improve vegetation management.

The bill approved by the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power in July will come before the full committee in September. It does not contain hydropower licensing reforms, or provide a formal role for FERC in assessing the reliability impacts of major federal rules. It is scheduled to go to the full committee for mark-up in September, where amendments will be allowed for the first time.

Fall will indicate whether the House and Senate energy bills get legs in terms of strong bipartisan support, or whether the amendment process becomes a tool for advocates of more polarizing issues, like the Keystone pipeline, the Clean Power Plan, a federal role on distributed generation, or a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard, to derail the bills.

NWPPA will remain actively involved as the energy and cyber-security bills advance. **NWPPA**

*Deborah Sliz is with Morgan Meguire, NWPPA’s Washington, D.C., consulting firm. She can be reached at either (202) 661-6180 or [dsliz@morganmeguire.com](mailto:dsliz@morganmeguire.com).*



# Smart grid trailblazers identify future needs through the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project

**T**he Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project, a five-year effort to advance knowledge and understanding of smart grid approaches and technologies, concluded earlier this year. But the project's outcomes are expected to inform smart grid deployment well into the future.

In June, the project issued an 840-page report on demonstration results. In a nutshell, the Technology Performance Report concluded that smart meters, automated control of power distribution, and other intelligent energy technologies can improve energy efficiency and possibly reduce power costs. However, more research and development are needed to support utility-led smart grid deployment.

“The demo was one of the largest and most complex smart grid demonstration projects to date,” said Ron Melton, the project director of Battelle, which led the project on behalf of the region and the Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. “Like any project of this size and scope, we worked our way through a number of technical issues and challenges. In the process we achieved some solid outcomes and gained valuable experience.”

In addition to Battelle, participants included 11 electric utilities across five states (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming), as well as six technology companies, two universities, and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The project’s \$178 million in funding — half provided by the DOE and the other half by cost share from the participants — supported the evaluation of 55 different technologies.

“This project has laid the groundwork for a more reliable, efficient, and sustainable power grid in the Northwest,” said Terry Oliver, BPA’s chief technology innovation officer. “We now have more insight into smart-grid technologies that could provide value to the region.”



According to Melton, this grid demonstration effort was not entirely new. “We built upon the earlier GridWise® Olympic Peninsula demonstration in Washington. However, no previous project has tackled the breadth and scope of implementing and testing the transactive control concept,” he noted.

In 2006, as part of the DOE-funded Olympic Peninsula project, more than 100 homes were outfitted with smart water heaters and electric dryers that responded to a smart signal and would intermittently turn their heating elements off, for anywhere

from 20 seconds to two minutes, during times of peak demand on the grid. Over the year-long project, consumers saved approximately 10 percent on their monthly bills and helped their utility reduce peak demand by 15 percent. The Olympic Peninsula project’s smart signal was a forerunner to the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project’s transactive system.

## Demo’s transactive system passes test

The transactive system was indeed a focal point for the five-state demonstration project. The system was based on the transactive control concept formulated at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash. (managed by Battelle for the DOE). Under transactive control, decision making is distributed across the grid, even to consumers and individual devices. This is accomplished via a seamless, two-way communication method that exchanges signals containing information about the cost of available power and the amount of power needed by end users. The interplay of these signals at distributed decision-making nodes on the system is at the heart of the technology.

“The two-way communication of information — all the way from sources of electricity, such as dams or wind projects, to homes — allows consumers and devices, such as smart appliances, to make informed energy-use decisions,”



*Portland General Electric installed a 5-megawatt, lithium-ion battery in Salem, Ore., as part of the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project. Photo courtesy of PGE.*

Melton explained. “The resulting improvements in grid efficiency, cost effectiveness, and reliability benefit the region, utilities, and consumers.”

Melton says the demonstration project’s transactive system partitioned the Pacific Northwest power grid into 27 “nodes,” or points in the power system that can send and receive information. When in operation, the nodes communicated two types of information with their nearest neighbor nodes every five minutes — the delivered cost of electricity (incentive signal) and the predicted energy to be exchanged now and during a set of future intervals (feedback signal).

Concerns over the sensitivity of energy information and the experimental nature of the technology prevented the demonstration project from originating transactive signals in the actual Northwest power grid and directly influencing regional power generation. But project partner Alstom Grid built a model of the regional grid, which used both real data and estimations, to run in parallel with the actual grid.

Changes in the incentive and feedback signals resulted in “events” — or the periodic engagement of various project “assets,” such as smart appliances, power generation sources, and energy storage units at test sites. The purpose of these engagements was to view asset responses, such as a smart water heater turning on or off, to signals indicating changing prices and quantities of electricity.

“Although the transactive system performed better in some areas than others, overall the project showed that regional transactive control can be accomplished, and that assets such as smart systems and devices at the end points can respond dynamically on a wide scale,” Melton said.

To evaluate the potential impact of transactive control beyond the project and for the entire Northwest, IBM, one of the project partners, created a model that rapidly simulated different scenarios on the regional grid. Tests run on that model showed the Northwest’s peak power costs could be reduced about 7.8 percent if 30 percent of the regional electric grid used transactive, demand-responsive equipment.

### **Utilities install new technologies; learn from the smart grid experience**

The participant utilities proved to be smart grid trailblazers, obtaining and installing new technologies, dealing with a range of resulting operational challenges, and working to ensure the project experience was as customer friendly as possible. The utilities ranged from metropolitan (Portland General Electric and its 840,000 customers) to rural (the City of Milton-Freewater, Ore., and its customer base of about 4,500). Along with Milton-Freewater, five other NWPPA member utilities participated: Benton PUD, the City of Ellensburg, Flathead Electric Cooperative, Idaho Falls Power, and Peninsula Light Company.

The utilities and the University of Washington, in consultation with demonstration project leadership, selected, acquired, and tested a wide range of technologies. Many of the technologies proved they could reduce energy use and possibly also cut power bills. The degree of savings varied with each technology and test location.

Idaho Falls Power in Idaho Falls, Idaho, tested the greatest variety of asset systems of any project participant. The utility’s projects were focused on voltage management;

*Continued on page 28*



*Avista Utilities installed smart transformers to help improve the efficiency of its distribution system in Pullman, Wash. Photo courtesy of Avista Utilities.*

power factor control; distribution automation; water heater and thermostat load control; and in-home display units. Another of the utility's projects synergistically combined solar power, energy storage, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) charging stations.

There were several positive outcomes from the Idaho Falls projects. Voltage management, according to data analysis, showed potential for savings — perhaps up to \$5,400 annually for the circuits tested — in avoided energy purchases. The approach also could save a similar amount in demand charges, or the fee that BPA levies to ensure that power is available to utilities during high-electricity-demand periods. The management system also proved effective in enhancing the quality of delivered voltages to premises. The utility's power factor control efforts, which involved automating control of switched capacitor banks at two large local breweries, appear to have yielded reductions in system power losses.

But Idaho Falls Power also faced several challenges. Its water heater control project ended in the second year, due to safety concerns with the load-control modules installed in residences. The solar-battery-PHEV test was hampered when the battery vendor encountered financial difficulties and stopped supporting the system soon after installation. The utility then had no way to control the battery storage module.

Other utilities experienced similar outcomes related to technology maturity and reliability, and vendor support. The City of Ellensburg spent considerable effort finding wind turbine systems to purchase and test, only to have four of the nine turbines experience operational failures. Five of the systems produced electricity, though not in amounts that would help meet demand, nor reduce BPA demand charges. Benton PUD's supplier of 10-kilowatt battery units stopped supporting the products, which could not be operated without the supplier's Web-based software.

“These situations, while frustrating, are indicators of challenges utilities and others face in moving toward a smart grid,” Melton says. “They are important learning experiences, areas that need additional attention and solutions.”

Among some of the other utility projects and outcomes:

- Peninsula Light Company's use of load-control modules for the curtailment of electric water heater load on Fox Island in the Puget Sound helped the utility manage the failure of one of the electricity supply lines from the mainland.
- The City of Milton-Freewater installed 800 demand response units in the community to control either electric water heaters or space conditioning units and defer energy use as necessary. Demand response performance consistently improved over time, and the demonstration project calculated that each device reduced load by about 100 watts during curtailment events.
- Avista Utilities reported its fault detection, isolation, and restoration (FDIR) system and other reliability enhancements in Pullman, Wash., facilitated significant reductions in outages and duration of outages, and avoided hundreds of thousands of outage minutes.
- Portland General Electric installed a 5-megawatt lithium-ion battery and inverter system at its Salem Smart Power Center in Salem, Ore. The innovative system sets the stage for establishing a microgrid and addressing challenges such as peak demand reduction and renewable energy integration. Regarding a solar component of the project, Kevin Whitener, lead project engineer, said, “This is one of the few opportunities that the industry has had to prove these concepts and demonstrate that energy storage is indeed a solution to integrating solar energy. Impacts from what we're doing here are far-reaching.”

More than \$80 million dollars of technologies and equipment were installed and tested through the demonstration project across the region. The vast majority of these items — 88 percent — remains in place, benefitting consumers and utilities. A total of nearly 31,000 smart meters were installed, most at residences.

But the project was about more than new technology and hardware purchases. Smart grid implementation, and the consumer curiosity and questions it engenders, necessitated a focus on customer communications and education. Flathead Electric Cooperative, serving northwestern Montana, developed a communications strategy for recruiting, educating, and interacting with the co-op's members who participated in grid demonstration project activities. Flathead Electric's technology projects were focused in four areas: advanced metering infrastructure for outage recovery, in-home display units, demand response units, and demand response appliances.

The cooperative decided against using the term “smart grid” in public communications, instead branding its projects under the name Peak Time™. Multiple methods were developed for reaching out to customers to gain their involvement in demonstration project activities, from radio spots to power bill inserts and community meetings. The cooperative ultimately recruited nearly 300 Libby, Mont., customer volunteers and approximately 50 from the rural communities of Marion and Kila. The emphasis on effective communications continued as Flathead Electric deployed its technology projects.

Nearing the demonstration project’s conclusion, Flathead Electric brought its communications approach full circle, surveying customer participants. “We found that a large majority — 97 percent — of those who responded to the survey said they would take part in a similar program again and would recommend participation to others,” said Teri Rayome-Kelly, the cooperative’s demand response coordinator.

### Lessons learned

Along with lessons related to technology and vendor performance, project leaders derived other valuable conclusions. They learned that better tools are needed to ensure smart grid data is of high quality and the equipment generating that data is working correctly. Many utility participants were not prepared to deal with the onslaught of data and sometimes they mislabeled data with incorrect units or times. Also, there’s a need for smart-grid technologies to work together, and standards should be further developed. This would have reduced the significant efforts required of project participants to make equipment from various vendors work together.

BPA will consider findings from the demonstration project in the development of a regional business case for the smart grid, due to be completed this fall. Several future scenarios are being considered for this analysis, including significant increases in the adoption rates of solar or building automation and major advancements in energy storage. “This furthers our research on whether the benefits of grid modernization will meet or exceed the costs to utilities, BPA and the region as a whole,” says Stephanie Vasquez-Pettit, BPA’s project manager.



Looking back over the demonstration project, Melton believes the findings and recommendations strongly suggest that the effort has been worthwhile. “Its outcomes put us a step closer to substantially updating and improving our nation’s energy system,” he said. **NWPPA**

*Tim Ledbetter is a communications specialist for Battelle in Richland, Wash. He can be contacted at [tim.ledbetter@pnnl.gov](mailto:tim.ledbetter@pnnl.gov). For more information about the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project and its outcomes, visit [www.pnwsmartgrid.org](http://www.pnwsmartgrid.org).*

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

**Revolutionary Lighting Solutions**

**GOLIGHT**

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

The advertisement features a large 'GOLIGHT' logo on the left. On the right, there is a night scene with a bright, powerful light source illuminating a structure. Below the main text, there are images of various lighting equipment, including a handheld light, a large light fixture, and a light panel.

# 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: Journeyman Lineman

COMPANY: Elmhurst Mutual Power & Light Company (Tacoma, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$83,000 annually, plus overtime.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 16, 2015.  
TO APPLY: For an application packet, email Administrative Assistant Diane Young at [dianey@elmhurstmutual.org](mailto:dianey@elmhurstmutual.org) or call (253) 531-4646.

## POSITION: Treasurer Contoller

COMPANY: PUD #1 of Clallam County (Port Angeles, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$9,167-\$11,667 per month.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 22, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Application packets are available at [www.clallampud.net](http://www.clallampud.net).

## POSITION: Project Engineer

COMPANY: City of Ellensburg (Ellensburg, Wash.)  
SALARY: \$6,229-\$8,305 per month.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 23, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us](http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us).

## POSITION: Resource Planner

COMPANY: City of Palo Alto Utilities (Palo Alto, Calif.)  
SALARY: \$96,699.20-\$118,705.60 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 24, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org).

## POSITION: Engineering and Operations Manager

COMPANY: Klickitat PUD (Goldendale, Wash.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 24, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Applications available online at [www.klickitatpud.com](http://www.klickitatpud.com).

## POSITION: System Planning and Engineering Manager

COMPANY: Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Port Orford, Ore.)  
SALARY: DOQ.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 26, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.ccec.coop](http://www.ccec.coop).

## POSITION: Engineer Tech I

COMPANY: City of Milton-Freewater (Milton-Freewater, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$23.53-\$28.86 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 30, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Applications may be obtained from Human Resources Dept., City Hall, P.O. Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862, (541) 938-8243, or at [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com).

## POSITION: Power Engineer

COMPANY: City of Roseville (Roseville, Calif.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 1, 2015.  
TO APPLY: Apply online at [www.roseville.ca.us/jobs](http://www.roseville.ca.us/jobs).

## 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: Meterman/Account Specialist

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

## POSITION: General Manager

COMPANY: Big Flat Electric Co-op., 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 Co-op., Attn. Kari Hammond, P.O. Box 229, Malta, MT 59538 or email to [kari@bigflatelectric.com](mailto:kari@bigflatelectric.com).

## POSITION: Office Supervisor/HR Director

COMPANY: Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Eureka, Mont.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Complete and submit a Lincoln Electric application, found at [www.lincolnelectric.coop](http://www.lincolnelectric.coop).

## POSITION: Electric Systems Managing Engineer

COMPANY: City of Ketchikan (Ketchikan, Alaska)  
SALARY: \$90,000-\$104,028 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Recruitment brochure available at [www.ralphandersen.com](http://www.ralphandersen.com). Apply via email to [apply@ralphandersen.com](mailto:apply@ralphandersen.com).

## POSITION: Meterman Journeyman

COMPANY: Grays Harbor PUD (Aberdeen, Wash.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: For more information and to apply online, go to [www.ghpud.org](http://www.ghpud.org).

## POSITION: Journeyman Lineman

COMPANY: Consumers Power, Inc. (Philomath, Ore.)  
SALARY: \$42.54 per hour.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Send cover letter and resumé to Consumers Power, P.O. Box 1180, Philomath, OR 97370, fax to (541) 929-8506, or email to [debg@cpi.coop](mailto:debg@cpi.coop).

## POSITION: Power Engineer/Assistant Power Engineer

COMPANY: City of Ukiah (Ukiah, Calif.)  
SALARY: \$79,050-\$106,762 annually.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Applications are available at [www.cityofukiah.com](http://www.cityofukiah.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 [sstreeter@mse.coop](mailto:sstreeter@mse.coop).

## POSITION: Senior Electrical/System Design Technician

COMPANY: Clatskanie People's Utility District (Clatskanie, Ore.)  
SALARY: DOE.  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: Open until filled.  
TO APPLY: Application information and instructions can be found at [www.clatskaniepud.com](http://www.clatskaniepud.com). **NWPPA**

## Advertisers

Energy Northwest .....	11
Golight, Inc. ....	29
Hubbell Power Systems.....	16-17
POWER Engineers .....	Back cover
Ruralite Services.....	31
Wagner-Smith Equipment.....	13



**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)

# HI, PRESSURE.

POWER Engineers has the strength and agility to help you navigate the ever-changing energy market. From analysis and design all the way through implementation and program management—POWER Engineers is your can-do, go-to power delivery solution.

LEARN MORE: [WWW.POWERENG.COM/PD](http://WWW.POWERENG.COM/PD)

