Northwest Public Power Association eBulletin

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS NWPPA

eBulletin

Published by the Northwest Public Power Association

Monday, October 19, 2015

Legislative Announcements

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Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Visit NWPPA's website for the most up-to-date calendar of training events. Classes are added daily and dates and locations may have changed from the printed training catalog.

- Front Line Leadership Session #5: Supervising Union Employees
  - **November 3-5, 2015**
- Electric Utility System Operations
  - **November 4-5, 2015**
- 963.1 Strategic Technologies and Their Impact on the Cooperative
  - **December 1-2, 2015**
- Foreman Leadership Skills #3
  - **December 1-2, 2015**
- Key Topics in Utility Accounting
  - **December 1-2, 2015**
- Foreman Leadership Skills #4
  - **December 3-4, 2015**

- Monitoring Budgets and Financial Analysis
  - December 3, 2015

View Event Calendar...

NEW: WSU adds new electric power engineering master's degree program.

Industry Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming public power meetings.

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RFP/RFQs

Utilities: NWPPA offers its utility members the opportunity (at no cost) to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. Reach out to NWPPA's almost 4,000 associate member contacts that supply goods and services to the utility industry and might be interested in responding to your utility RFP/RFQ. For more information, contact Debbie K. at debbie@nwppa.org.

Associate Members: Make sure to check out NWPPA's RFP/RFQ Web page to view utility RFP listings. Listings are posted as they are received by NWPPA.

New RFP posted October 8, 2015!

Read more...

Recent Industry Job Openings

View the job opportunities posted to NWPPA's website in the past week.

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On This Day in History

Construction begins on the Sutro Tunnel in Virginia City, Nev.; John DeLorean is arrested for drug dealing; "Take on Me" music video helps Norway's a-Ha reach the top of the U.S. pop charts; and Fire sweeps through

Oakland hills.

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Legislative Announcements

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Congressional overview

Update provided by Morgan Meguire

Congress is recessed for the Columbus Day holiday; the Senate returns on October 19, with the House to

follow on October 20.

There has been no formal announcement on progress in the House search for a replacement for outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio). Many House members want to enlist Ways and Means Chair Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), but he continues to say he does not want the job. A Ryan spokesman said he does not expect an announcement on his plans this week.

With Speaker Boehner's October 30 departure from Congress imminent, he is reportedly meeting with the White House and Senate leaders to see if he can move "must-pass" bills, such as a debt limit increase and a long-term transportation bill through the House.

According to Treasury, Congress must increase the federal debt limit by November 3; failure to do so would result in a U.S. default on existing obligations.

Highway funding runs out on October 29, and yesterday House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Bill Schuster (R-Pa.) announced a markup on a long-term bill for October 22. Efforts to reach a long-term transportation deal, with a clear funding source, have been elusive to date.

In other news, October 15 was Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioner Phil Moeller's last official Commission meeting; he will leave FERC at the end of the month.

Sixth Circuit stays WOTUS nationwide, challenges will not be consolidated in D.C.

Update provided by Morgan Meguire

On October 9, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found a substantial likelihood of success on the merits of a case challenging the "Clean Water Rule," also known as "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS), and extended a stay of the rule to all 50 states. Previously, 13 states that were party to a challenge filed in a North Dakota district court had received a stay while the rule went into effect in the remaining states.

The Sixth Circuit's ruling comes in advance of a separate decision it will need to make on whether the federal appeals courts or district courts have jurisdiction to hear the merits of the claims. The Clean Water Act allows some cases to bypass district courts and go directly to appellate courts (such as the Sixth Circuit), but it is not clear whether this case qualifies. Some district courts had already decided they lacked jurisdiction and dismissed claims, while the North Dakota court went the other way.

Further complicating matters for the Administration, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation decided on October 13 not to consolidate the district court cases in a single challenge before the District of D.C., as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had requested. The EPA has also asked the district court in North Dakota to wait for the Sixth Circuit to make its decision on jurisdiction, which could come shortly after briefs are submitted on November 2.

If the Sixth Circuit decides it has jurisdiction, it would be persuasive but not binding on district courts in states outside its judicial purview – they could decide to move forward with challenges before them (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee are in the Sixth Circuit). However, if the Sixth Circuit decides the claims must be heard in district court, the stay would be lifted and each court would need to make a separate determination on whether to grant an injunction. It is not clear whether challenges that were dismissed in Georgia and West Virginia district courts could be revived.

NWPPA has been a vigorous opponent of the WOTUS rule, which would dramatically broaden the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

House Resources passes BOR Transparency Act

Update provided by Morgan Meguire

On October 8, the House Natural Resources Committee passed bipartisan legislation championed by Reps. Paul Gosar (R–Ariz.) and Jared Huffman (D–Calif.), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Transparency Act (H.R. 1107), by unanimous consent. In order for the BOR to effectively continue its mission, Gosar said, "Congress needs to know what projects are most important and need repair so it can prioritize scarce resources to ensure their longevity."

The bill would require the BOR to do an infrastructure needs assessment, including a list of major repairs and rehabilitation needs; their estimated costs; and a categorical safety rating of the importance of addressing each item. The infrastructure needs assessment would be done every two years, be provided to Congress, and be made public. This would include the cost of compliance with environmental laws and infrastructure upgrades that are passed on to the power marketing administrations, and, ultimately, their customers.

"American taxpayers deserve accountability from their government and oversight on how it spends their money. Letting the sunlight in on this agency is long overdue," Gosar said.

On the Democratic side, Huffman, Ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans stated, "I wanted to just commend Mr. Gosar for his leadership on the Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act. I am pleased to be co-sponsoring it. It's a good example of how we can work across the aisle, even in times of tough water shortages in the West, to find ways to better stretch our funding and do good for our water infrastructure."

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Public Power Announcements

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Douglas County PUD's Erb celebrates 20 years

During the October 12 Douglas County PUD (East Wenatchee, Wash.) Commission meeting, Commissioners Ron Skagen, Jim Davis, and Molly Simpson awarded Assistant System Operator Mike Erb with his 20-year service award. Commissioner Skagen thanked Erb on behalf of the citizens of Douglas County for his years of service.

Photo: (L-R) Commissioner Molly Simpson, Commissioner Jim Davis (seated), Assistant System Operator Mike Erb, and Commissioner Ron Skagen

Okanogan PUD honors Randy Bird for 20 years of service

This month, Randy Bird celebrated 20 years of service to the Okanogan County PUD (Wash.). Bird was hired as a temporary warehouseman in September 1995 and was soon after awarded a full-time warehouseman position in March 1996. In January 1997, Bird became a lineman trainee and worked with both the Oroville and Okanogan crews until July 2000 when he passed the journeyman lineman examination. In July 2008, he was promoted to operations superintendent, the position he currently holds.

Columbia River PUD launches new low-income senior discount

Within the first two weeks of its existence, nearly 50 Columbia River PUD (St. Helens, Ore.) customers signed up for a new PUD discount program for senior citizen customers with limited incomes. The Low-Income Senior Discount program gives an $8 discount on the monthly customer charge and a 10-percent discount on the monthly energy charge to qualified customers. Seniors age 62 and older who have incomes at or below 60-percent of the state median income are eligible.

The program was proposed by Interim General Manager John Nguyen following feedback from customers and members of the PUD's rate advisory committee this summer. It was approved at the September Board Meeting and implemented on October 1.

"I'm glad we were able to come up with a program to help make sure our low-income seniors can make ends meet," said PUD Board Member Harry Price.

MEA requests member feedback on final transmission routes

After almost a year of public comment and community meetings, Matanuska Electric Association (Palmer, Alaska) has identified their preferred alternative to the Parks Highway transmission route through Wasilla. MEA detailed the process and resulting alternatives in a draft Decisional Document sent to the Mat Su Borough and City of Wasilla indicating the preferred alternate transmission route and two other options for consideration. The document is the result of a detailed analysis of 440 route options, including an in-depth public involvement process.

MEA encourages members and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft Decisional Document during this final 30-day public comment period ending November 9, 2015. MEA also invites interested parties to comment during the City of Wasilla Planning Commission public hearing on November 10, 2015, when the commission will discuss MEA's application to permit one of three routes through the city.

The Decisional Document is available for review at www.mea.coop/WasillaTLine.

Annual Fern Ridge Holiday Parade to light up Veneta

On Thursday, December 10, the crowd-lined streets of Veneta, Ore., will be illuminated in festive, twinkling color when the 12th annual Fern Ridge Light Parade comes to town. Brightly lit parade floats will make their way

through the streets, delivering holiday cheer to onlookers young and old.

This hometown parade was brought to life in 2003 to spark holiday excitement in the rural community. For both families and local businesses, it has become a fun holiday tradition these past 12 years. Veneta's local electric utilities – Blachly-Lane Cooperative, Emerald PUD, and Lane Electric Cooperative – have participated in the event since it began.

"Our first year, the parade was small with only a handful of floats. As more service groups and churches got involved, we watched it grow to nearly 40 floats," said Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham. "The parade is a wonderful way for families and the community to kick off the holiday season."

This annual holiday event is made possible by many volunteers, and it is with the help of their sponsors that the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce and City of Veneta coordinate this annual holiday event.

Registration and waiver forms can be downloaded at www.FernRidgeChamber.com. **Registration forms must be received by December 9, 2015.**

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Associate Member Announcements

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Ruralite Services announces 2015 Communicator of the Year

Ruralite Services is pleased to announce Todd C. Munsey as its Communicator of the Year for 2015.

Munsey is the member services director for Douglas Electric Cooperative in Roseburg, Ore. Among his many responsibilities, he provides content for Ruralite magazine, the cooperative's monthly publication for consumers. Munsey has been at Douglas Electric since November 8, 1999.

In selecting Munsey for the award, Ruralite editors cited his effective use of all available magazine pages; his participation in the semi-annual Ruralite Writer's Workshop and twice-yearly Ruralite Publications Committee; and his community involvement.

"Todd is one of those guys you just love to work with," said Ruralite Assistant Editor Mike Teegarden,

who coordinates production of the magazine for Douglas Electric. "He is always trying to do the right thing, to find ways to reach members, and keep them informed about what is going on at Douglas Electric. He uses Ruralite magazine in a variety of ways to keep members engaged."

That commitment to use Ruralite magazine to inform consumers about the programs and activities at Douglas Electric earned Munsey the award.

Ruralite Services is a not-for-profit cooperative corporation formed more than 60 years ago to serve the communications needs of 50 consumer-owned electric utilities in Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. For more information, visit www.ruralite.org.

ABB offers utility leased line replacement solution with new wireless products

On October 14, ABB introduced ArcheOS, a line of licensed band point-to-multipoint (PTMP) radios that provide a reliable, cost-effective leased line replacement solution for utilities. Using ArcheOS, utilities can replace expensive leased lines with highly reliable PTMP radio links that require low capital expenditure and very low on-going operational expenses.

Utilities have traditionally communicated with remote substations and other isolated assets using low-speed, leased line service provided by wireline telephone companies. As telcos have invested in fiber infrastructure, many are discontinuing copper-based leased line services.

The ArcheOS product line provides a reliable, cost-effective leased line replacement solution for utilities. With products operating in 11 licensed frequency bands from 100 MHz to 900 MHz that permit high transmit power, ArcheOS can build long-distance, non-line-of-sight links to remote substations. IP support and enterprise-class security enable ArcheOS radios to easily integrate with corporate IT networks, supporting faster business decision making and implementation.

ArcheOS radios include a 10/100BASE-T wired interface for connectivity to state-of-the-art substation remote terminal units (RTUs). They also include two serial ports and support for automation protocols such as DNP3 and Modbus, to integrate legacy end points and avoid stranded assets.

"We're excited to provide our utility customers with a robust mix of wireless networking solutions to meet their evolving needs," said Chris Rittler, responsible for the wireless portfolio within ABB.

The new ArcheOS product line, as well as TeleOS and TropOS products, are managed by the SuprOS network management system. ArcheOS products and SuprOS are orderable now in the U.S. and Canada. SuprOS is available without additional charge to Tropos Control customers with a valid software maintenance subscription and is fully backward compatible with all products currently supported by Tropos Control.

For additional information, go to www.abb.com/tropos or contact tropos.marketing@nam.abb.com.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in roughly 100 countries and employs about 140,000 people.

T&B® Fittings Non-Metallic Expansion/Deflection Coupling now compatible with fiberglass raceway

T&B® Fittings Non-Metallic Expansion/Deflection Couplings from Thomas & Betts (T&B), developed for polyvinylchloride (PVC) systems, now are compatible with fiberglass raceway, also known as reinforced thermosetting resin conduit (RTRC), when bonded with methacrylate adhesive.

"The use of a methacrylate adhesive has enabled the expansion of the couplings' applications beyond PVC systems to include RTRC systems," said Ralph Donati, product marketing director at T&B. "Contractors now have the option of using T&B's non-metallic expansion/deflection couplings in applications that require the strength and light weight of fiberglass. Their use with RTRC has been successful in pullout and water-tightness testing."

T&B® Fittings Non-Metallic Expansion/Deflection Couplings provide flexible connections of PVC and fiberglass conduit runs that resist moisture ingress and stress caused by movement at structural joints. They safely accommodate axial or parallel movement of up to ¾ inch, and angular deflection up to 30 degrees from the relaxed position. The couplings may be used indoors or outdoors, for direct burial or embedded in concrete, and where a raceway crosses a structural joint intended for expansion, contraction, or deflection in buildings, bridges, parking garages, piers, hospitals, and water and waste water treatment plants. They are NEC® compliant and UL® approved.

For more information about T&B® Fittings Non-Metallic Expansion/Deflection Couplings from T&B, please visit www.tnb.com (look for T&B® on the "Brands" tab) or call (800) 238-5000.

Thomas & Betts Corporation, a member of the ABB Group, is a global leader in the design, manufacture, and marketing of essential components used to manage the connection, distribution, transmission, and reliability of electrical power in utility, industrial, commercial, and residential applications. With a portfolio of more than 200,000 products marketed under more than 45 premium brand names, Thomas & Betts products are found wherever electricity is used. Thomas & Betts' headquarters are in Memphis, Tenn. For more information, please visit www.tnb.com.

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Calendar of Events

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2015 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2015 & 2016 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at Debbie@nwppa.org.

October

20-22 – OPUDA Annual Meeting, Oregon Gardens, Silverton, OR

November

5 – PPC Meeting – Sheraton Inn/Portland Airport, 8 am-12 pm

18-20 – WPUDA Association Meetings, Olympia, WA

December

1-2 – MECA Winter Board Meeting, Great Falls, MT

1-3 – ORECA Annual Meeting, Location TBA

2-4 – WPUDA Annual Conference, SeaTac, WA

10 – PPC Annual Meeting & Lunch – Sheraton Inn/Portland Airport, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

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Jobs

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Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

Chief Power Dispatcher – Municipal Light & Power

Customer Engineering Supervisor – Municipal Light & Power

Engineering and Operations Manager **Updated** – Klickitat PUD

Generation Division Manager – Municipal Light & Power

Line Design Engineering Supervisor – Municipal Light & Power

Operations Division Manager – Municipal Light & Power

Resource Planner – City of Palo Alto Utilities

Senior Electrical Engineer – Matanuska Electric Association

Standards Electrical Engineer III – Portland General Electric

System Planning and Engineering Manager – Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Treasurer Controller – PUD #1 of Clallam County

Utility Operations Coordinator – Eugene Water and Electric Board

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This Day In History

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Construction begins on the Sutro Tunnel in Virginia City, Nev.

October 19, 1869

On this day in 1869, the famous Prussian-born mining engineer, Adolph Sutro, begins work on one of the most ambitious western engineering projects of the day: a four-mile-long tunnel through the solid rock of the Comstock Lode mining district. One of the richest silver deposits in the world, the Comstock Lode had been discovered by prospectors in 1859, and it quickly became the focus of the most intensive mining activity in the West. But as miners sank shafts ever deeper into the rock in search of more silver and gold, they began to encounter large amounts of water that had to be pumped to the surface at great expense. If only some means could be found to drain the water horizontally, the mining companies would save a fortune. Adolph Sutro's tunnel was intended to do just that. Sutro-who had already demonstrated his technical brilliance by inventing a new way to extract silver from waste rock-proposed to blast a large horizontal tunnel right through the rock of the neighboring Mt. Davidson and straight into the heart of the Comstock mine. Mine water would thus drain through the tunnel without need for expensive pumps, and the mining companies would also be able to use the tunnel to move men and ore in and out of the mine, greatly reducing transportation costs.

While all involved agreed that technically Sutro's tunnel would be a boon to the Comstock, progress on the project was continually slowed down by resistance from some of the major mining interests who feared that Sutro would use his tunnel to take control of the entire lode. Only after securing European capital was Sutro able to complete the $5-million project in 1878.

Every bit as successful as promised, the Sutro tunnel drained some two million gallons of water from the mines per year and greatly reduced transportation costs. Unfortunately, by 1878, the richer sections of the Comstock Lode had been capped out, and the mine had begun to steadily decline in profitability. Sutro, though, succeeded in selling his tunnel in 1879 at a fantastic profit. He moved to San Francisco where he became one of the city's largest landowners as well as the city's mayor from 1894 to 1896.

John DeLorean is arrested for drug dealing

October 19, 1982

Maverick automobile executive John DeLorean is arrested in a Los Angeles, California, airport motel with a briefcase containing $24 million dollars worth of cocaine. According to authorities, DeLorean was attempting to make a mammoth drug deal in order to rescue his financially ailing company, the DeLorean Motor Company. As a young man, John DeLorean worked in the engineering department of Pontiac, where he developed the classic muscle car of the 1960s, the GTO. He moved on to become the youngest-ever general manager of Chevrolet and was soon hobnobbing with Hollywood stars. He dumped his first wife to marry Kelly Harmon, a 20-year-old model, only to divorce again and marry jet-setter Cristina Ferrare. When DeLorean took to wearing bell bottoms and had plastic surgery on his face, his new style did not find favor with the bigwigs at General Motors, and he was forced out in 1973. He later blasted GM in a bestselling book, *On a Clear Day You Can See General Motors*. DeLorean set out to build his own company and a dream sports car. With Great Britain offering amazing incentives, and with money from celebrities such as Johnny Carson and Sammy Davis Jr., he created the DeLorean Motor Company and built a striking stainless steel sports car with gull-wing doors. Although quite popular at first, the cars had some problems, and, when a recession hit in 1981, the company was left reeling. According to DeLorean's account, it was at this time that James Hoffman, an acquaintance in California who was actually a convicted felon-turned-government informant, told him he could find investors to save the company. Claiming that he didn't know it was a drug deal until it was too late, DeLorean said he was afraid to back out. Despite what many believed to be an open and shut case, which even included a videotape of the drug deal, the jury believed that DeLorean had been entrapped by the government. In 1984, even without his own testimony, he was acquitted.

However, DeLorean's legal troubles didn't end there. In 1985, he was indicted for racketeering, fraud, and tax evasion, all of which he escaped with an acquittal. He died from a stroke at the age of 80, on March 19, 2005.

With less than 10,000 ever produced, the DeLorean sports car is now a collector's car; a large percentage of them are still in operation and on the roads.

"Take on Me" music video helps Norway's a-Ha reach the top of the U.S. pop charts

October 19, 1985

From its beginnings in the early 1980s, it was clear that MTV, the Music Television Network, would have a dramatic effect on the way pop stars marketed their music and themselves. While radio remained a necessary engine to drive the sales and chart rankings of singles and albums, the rise of new artists like Duran Duran and the further ascent of established stars like Michael Jackson showed that creativity and esthetic appeal on MTV could make a direct and undeniable contribution to a musical performer's commercial success. But if ever a case existed in which MTV did more than just contribute to an act's success, it was the case of the Norwegian band a-Ha, who went from total unknowns to chart-topping pop stars almost solely on the strength of the groundbreaking video for the song "Take On Me," which hit #1 on the *Billboard* pop chart on this day in 1985.

By 1985 the medium was established enough that it took a unique angle to achieve music video stardom. Enter a-Ha, a synth-pop group that caught a late ride on the dying New Wave thanks to the video for "Take On Me," in which lead singer Morten Harket was transformed using a decades-old technology called Rotoscoping. The creators of the "Take On Me" video painted portions or sometimes the entirety of individual frames to create the effect of a dashingly handsome comic-book motorcycle racer (Harket) romancing a pretty girl from the real world, fighting off a gang of angry pursuers in a pipe-wrench fight before bursting out of the comic-book world as a dashingly handsome real boy.

The wildly popular video was an esthetic marvel at the moment of its unveiling, and it propelled a-Ha not only to the top spot on the pop charts, but to a still unbeaten record of eight wins at the 1986 MTV Video Music Awards. Predictably enough, the F/X gimmick that seemed so fresh in "Take On Me" soon became something of a cliché, showing up in ads for everything from minivans to maxi-pads. As for a-Ha, they may be thought of by many Americans as one-hit wonders—or two-hit wonders for those who remember "The Sun Always Shines On T.V."—but internationally they have enjoyed a tremendously successful recording career without any further help from MTV.

Fire sweeps through Oakland hills

October 19, 1991

On this day in 1991, a fire begins in the hills of Oakland, California. It went on to burn thousands of homes and kill 25 people. Despite the fact that fires had ravaged the same area three times earlier in the century, people continued to build homes there.

Fires had previously raged through the hills in 1923, 1970 and 1980. Each time, the fires occurred during autumn in a year with relatively little precipitation, and, each time, the residents rebuilt and moved back in as soon as possible. The deadly 1991 fire can be traced to a small fire at 7151 Buckingham Boulevard on October 18. Firefighters responded quickly and thought they had brought the blaze under control. However, heat from the fire had caused pine needles to fall from the trees and cover the ground.

When highly flammable debris, also known as "duff," accumulates on the ground, fires can smolder unseen. At 10:45 a.m. on October 19, strong winds blew one of these unseen fires up a hillside, changing wind patterns then caused it to spread in different directions.

The winds were so intense and the area was so dry that within an hour close to 800 buildings were on fire. The wind then blew southwest, pushing the fire toward San Francisco Bay. In some places, the temperature reached 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, making it virtually impossible to fight the fire effectively. Homeowners attempted to hose down their roofs, but were often thwarted when water pipes burst from the fire. Also, many homes had wooden shingle roofs that were particularly susceptible to fire—it took only 10 minutes in some cases for a house to be brought down by the flames.

Firefighting efforts were constrained by the fact that the affected homes were located on steep hills with very narrow streets. This made it difficult to maintain radio communications and to move large fire engines close to the flames. The fire spread so rapidly that firefighters were unable to establish a perimeter. When the fire was finally contained the following day, 25 people had lost their lives, 150 people were injured and 3,000 homes and 1,500 acres had been consumed. The total tally of damages was $1.5 billion.

In the aftermath, authorities attempted to reduce the likelihood of a similar fire breaking out the in the future. Laws were changed regarding the maximum height of trees permitted and the type of vegetation that was allowable in the area. In addition, most homes that have been rebuilt do not have wooden roofs."

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Congratulations to Northern Wasco County PUD GM Dwight Langer ! At yesterday's OPUDA Annual Meeting in Silverton, OPUDA President and Columbia River PUD Chair Dave Baker presented the Rock Solid Award to him for his contributions to public power over the past 43 years. Dwight will be retiring in December and we wish him all the best!

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